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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
OFFICIAL PROGRAM



ALL STAR GAME

1998

1998 OFFICIAL PROGRAM ALL-STAR GAME



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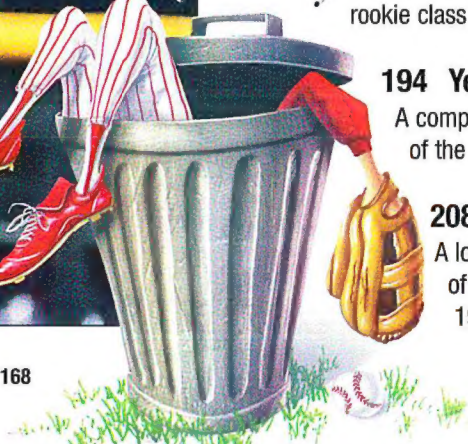
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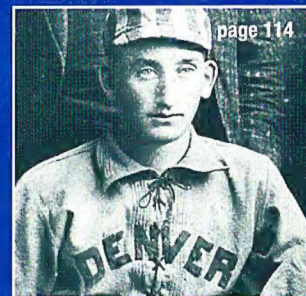
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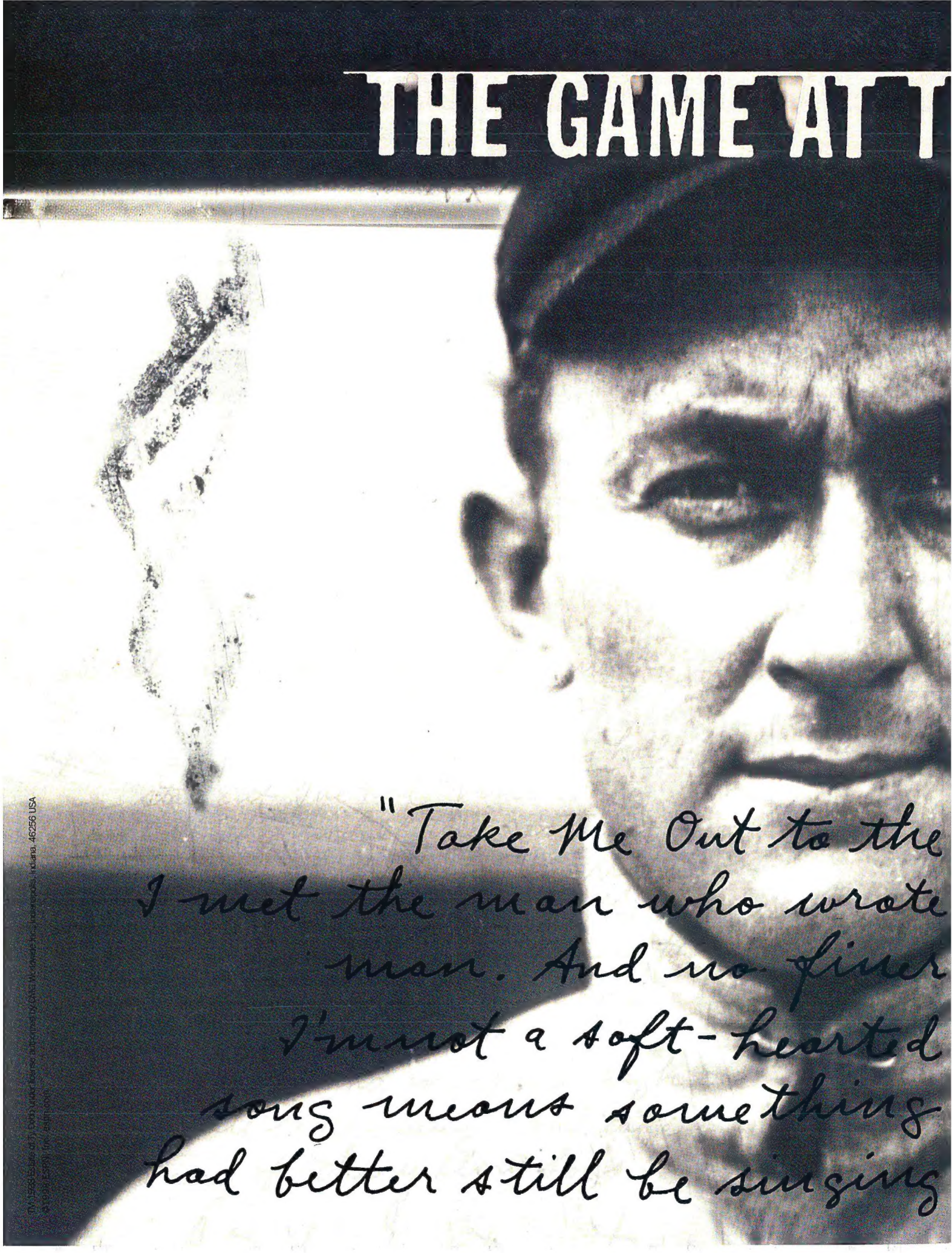


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THE GAME AT T

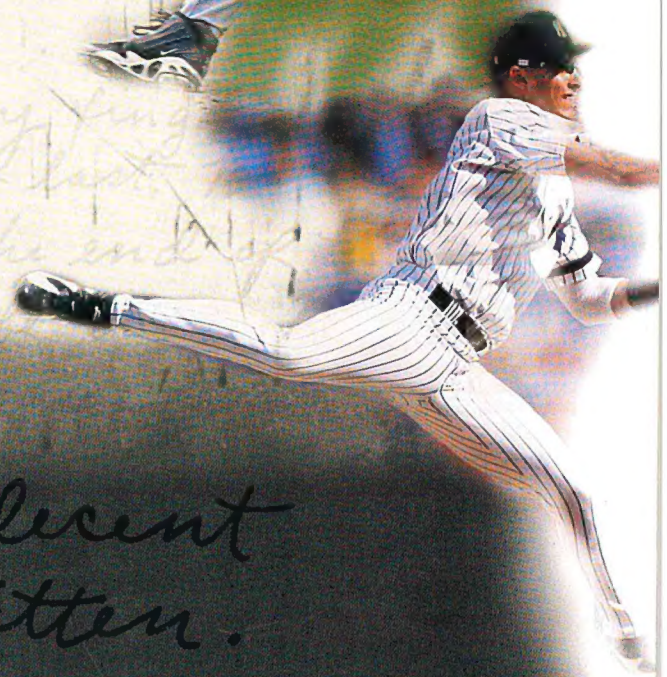


"Take Me Out to the
I met the man who wrote
man. And no finer
I'm not a soft-hearted
song means something
had better still be singing

THE END OF THE CENTURY

SUNDAY NIGHTS AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Additional coverage on Baseball Tonight, ESPN Radio, and ESPN.com



*Boys keep their dirty things
to me. It may not last.
It may not last. By the end of
the century, baseball will be*

*Ball game".
that song. He's a decent
song has been written.
man, but that
bigger than me, and people
it, when I'm long gone.*

YOU CAN'T FIGHT

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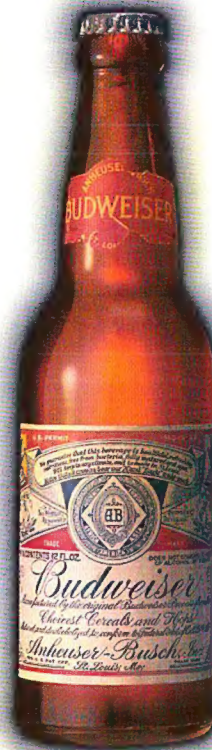
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Major League Baseball Executives



Allan H. (Bud) Selig

Executive Council Chairman

Allan H. (Bud) Selig, who was named Chairman of the Major League Baseball Executive Council on September 9, 1992, is the central figure in Major League Baseball's organizational structure.

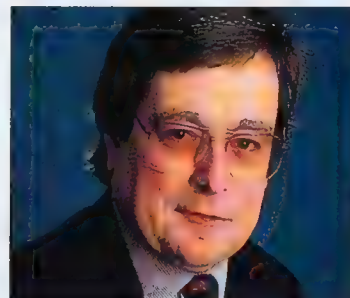
Selig played a pivotal role in the Labor Agreement that was reached in November 1996, and was responsible for shaping Major League Baseball's revenue sharing agreement between large and small market clubs. He has also led the way toward implementation of many of the game's recent structural changes, including Interleague Play, the Wild Card playoff format and the three-division realignment.

Paul Beeston

President and COO of Major League Baseball

Paul Beeston was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Major League Baseball on July 22, 1997.

Beeston, who was the first employee hired by the expansion Toronto Blue Jays in 1976, had been that club's President and CEO since 1989 until his resignation last June. As President and COO of Major League Baseball, Beeston reports directly to Bud Selig and is responsible for all phases of the Major League Baseball central offices, except the American and National Leagues.



Dr. Gene A. Budig

American League President

Gene A. Budig became the seventh president of the American League on August 1, 1994. He holds three academic degrees from the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Budig previously headed three major state universities as a teaching chancellor and was chancellor of the University of Kansas for 13 years. He was active in the Air National Guard for nearly 30 years, attaining the rank of major general.

He and his wife, Gretchen, reside in Princeton, N.J. They have three children.

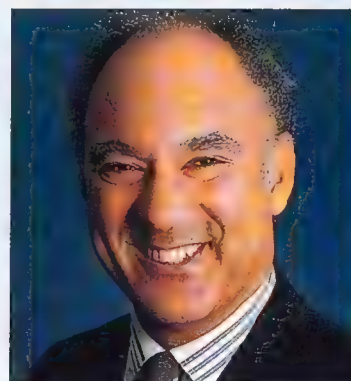
Leonard S. Coleman, Jr.

National League President

Leonard S. Coleman, Jr. was voted the 14th president of the National League on March 1, 1994. He joined Major League Baseball in 1992 as Executive Director-Market Development. He received an undergraduate degree from Princeton University and earned two master's degrees at Harvard.

Previously, Coleman was a municipal finance banker with national responsibilities at Kidder, Peabody & Company. He has also served as commissioner of both the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Energy.

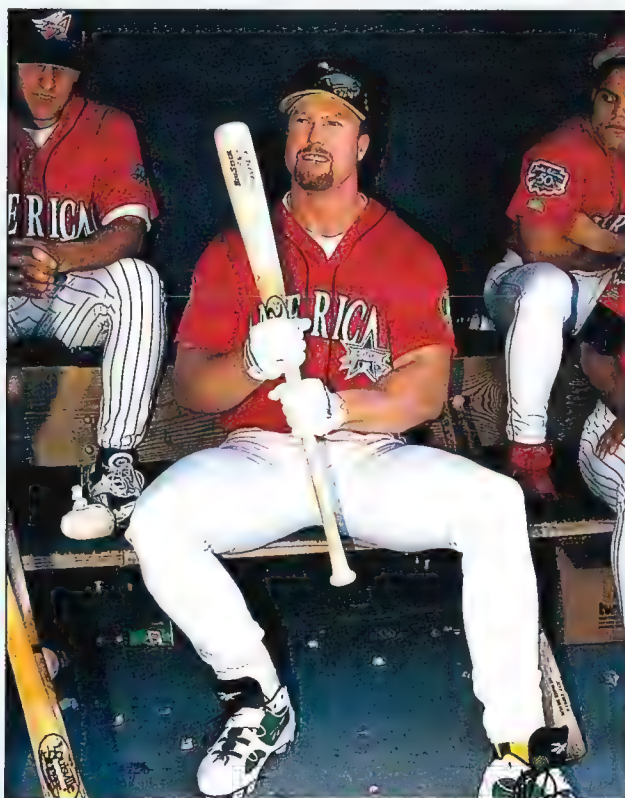
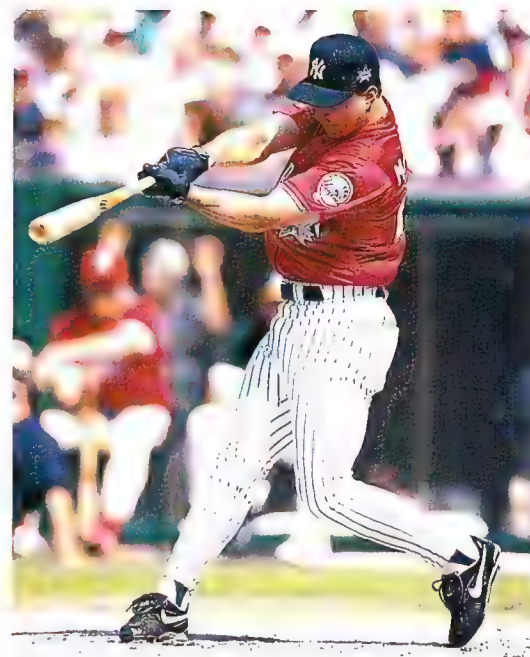
Coleman is married and is the father of two children.



Launch Pad

Looking for miles of home-run balls? Look no further. No All-Star Game experience is complete without one of its biggest side attractions—MCI All-Star Workout Day. The event will be held July 6 at Coors Field, and will include All-Star batting practice, followed by, most importantly in Denver, the Service Merchandise Home Run Derby. For the first time, the contest will be televised live on ESPN beginning at 6:00 MDT.

The Home Run Derby pits a handful of the most powerful All-Stars in the Major Leagues head-to-head in a battle of sheer might. The top home run hitters from both the American and National Leagues will test the thin Denver air to see who will be crowned the 1998 Home Run Derby king. Last year, Tino Martinez of the New York Yankees edged the Rockies' Larry Walker at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. Will Walker get his revenge at home this year? Or will another slugger rack up the most dents in the outfield seats? Find out at the MCI All-Star Workout Day, which runs from 3:00-8:00 MDT.



Clockwise from upper right: Tino Martinez walked away with last year's Home Run Derby crown; Larry Walker led National Leaguers at Jacobs Field; Mark McGwire, always ready to put the hurt on the horsehide, will swing for the NL this year.



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER RIGHT: REID (2), PILLING/ALL MLB PHOTOS



Baseball Heaven On Earth

Coors Field won't be the only place in Denver to find Major League excitement during All-Star Week. That's because Pinnacle All-Star FanFest will take place at the Colorado Convention Center from July 3-7 to provide fans with tons of All-Star thrills.

Here are just a few of the more than 40 exciting and informative attractions at Pinnacle All-Star FanFest:

"Major League Baseball Legends"—Get FREE autographs from baseball heroes.

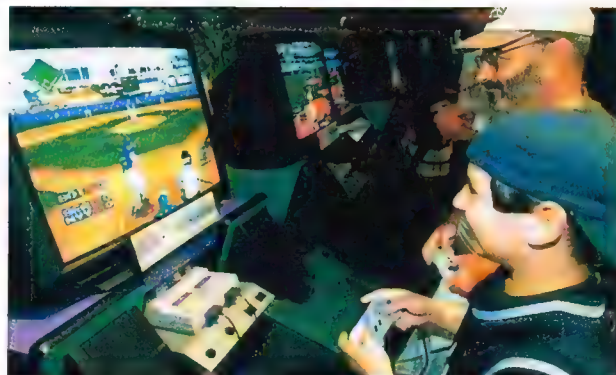
"The Diamond"—Learn about the game as you receive playing tips from Major League players and managers.

"Making Of The Game"—Witness how bats, gloves, baseballs and caps are made—right before your eyes!

"Spring Training"—Show off your skills in state-of-the-art video batting and pitching cages. Take a swing against a video image of Hideo Nomo or throw your best pitch to an image of Larry Walker.

"Make Your Own Baseball Card"—Create your own baseball card with your favorite team uniform. You can even make up your own statistics!

With these attractions and many more, Pinnacle All-Star FanFest allows you to experience baseball in ways you've only dreamed about. It's truly five days of baseball heaven on Earth!



Just some of the fan-friendly features at Pinnacle All-Star FanFest, clockwise from upper right: Test your speed as you run the bases against the clock; fire up the hottest baseball video games; receive instruction from the pros; observe craftsmen at work; collect piles of trading cards.

SECTION
AA



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LONGER LONG BALLS



Triple Play 99. The highlight reel you play. www.easports.com

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BY EVERY MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL PLAYER
NATIONAL LEAGUE
AS WELL AS AMERICAN



fig. 98 PRIDE

Put your ear up to one of those little holes in the top of your cap. Hear anything? No, that's not the ocean, it's the roaring of over 60 million baseball fans across the continent as the very best take the field. It's the hush of the bottom of the ninth, the crack of the bat, the echo of a million flashbulbs. That's what history sounds like. There's some stitched into every one of those holes. And now we've stitched in a little history along the side as well. This year, look for your favorite player's signature and number embroidered with pride into the All★Star crest. It's a new tradition for a game with a whole lot of history. All combined, it makes up something more than just a cap. It's a badge. Collect yours with pride.

THE 59/FIFTY IS BUILT FROM THE INSIDE OUT WITH AS MUCH CARE FOR INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION AS FOR THE FINE EMBROIDERY AT THE HELM. TWENTY-TWO DISTINCT QUALITY CHECKS ENSURE EACH CAP IS WORTHY AND RITUAL-READY.

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On the Air

Television

Join NBC Sports' All-Star squad when the network brings you television coverage of the 69th All-Star Game live from Coors Field. Calling the action for NBC will be the talented and familiar tandem of Emmy Award winner Bob Costas and Hall of Famer Joe Morgan, who teamed up to call the action at last year's dramatic seven-game World Series between Florida and Cleveland. Catch the All-Star excitement on Tuesday, July 7.

Costas will be working his sixth All-Star Game. Morgan, an eight-time All-Star during his playing days, last called the Midsummer Classic, with Costas, in 1996.

The action begins at 6:00 MDT.



NBC SPORTS

Bob Costas

Joe Morgan

Radio

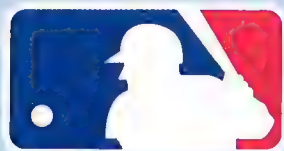


If you can't make it to a TV set during All-Star Week, no problem. Just tune in to ESPN Radio's inaugural broadcast of the Midsummer Classic. Live game coverage

will be provided July 7 (6:00 MDT). The network will also be airing the Home Run Derby live July 6 (6:00 MDT) and will provide interviews from the All-Star Gala following

the Derby. Spanish coverage of the All-Star Game will be carried by ESPN Radio, featuring the veteran baseball broadcast team of Billy Berroa and Jaime Jarrin.

International



A world TV audience encompassing more than 200 countries will watch the Major League Baseball International broadcast of the 1998 All-Star Game. Major League Baseball International will provide a live TV feed to baseball fans in 13 languages around the globe. Calling the action in English for the world feed will be Gary Thorne, Ken Singleton and Julie Croteau.



Gary Thorne



Ken Singleton



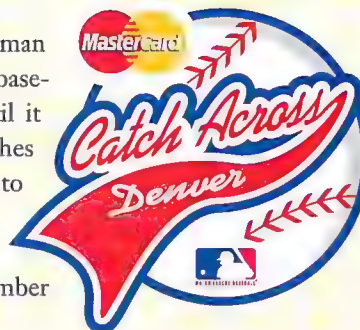
PILLI/WILD PHOTOS

Julie Croteau

CATCH ACROSS DENVER

Major League Baseball has teamed with MasterCard to present the ceremonial first pitch at this year's Midsummer Classic. Thirty members of the Boys & Girls Club of America will be dressed in each of the 30 Major League Baseball club uniforms. The kids will represent the more than 2.8 million members of the Boys & Girls Club, the official charity of Major League Baseball.

Leading up to that first toss, a human chain of 1,000 children will throw a baseball through and around Denver until it reaches Coors Field. Once it reaches Blake Street, the ball will be tossed to each of the 30 kids in big league uniforms, and ultimately, thrown as the first pitch by a Boys & Girls Club member wearing a Rockies uniform.



Jerry McMorris, Rachel Robinson and Don Baylor prior to the opening of Jackie Robinson Field.

COURTESY OF COLORADO ROCKIES

An All-Star Cause

As a result of the 1998 All-Star activities in Denver, Major League Baseball and the Colorado Rockies will contribute nearly \$1.5 million to charitable efforts. All net ticket proceeds from the 1998 MCI All-Star Workout Day will be used to support ongoing charity efforts and to build the following four Colorado community projects, which have been selected to share the philanthropic benefits:

- All-Star Park, Jefferson County, Colorado
- Jackie Robinson Field, Lowry Redevelopment Center, Colorado
- A championship softball field especially for girls softball, All City Complex, South Denver
- A new Learning Center for children, Southwest Denver

These projects will leave a legacy from the 1998 All-Star Game for many years to come.

ENCHANTING ANTHEMS

Prior to this year's All-Star Game, Coors Field will be graced by the vocals of two stunning artists. **Country music star Faith Hill**, who has two double-platinum albums and eight top-five singles to her credit, will perform the U.S. national anthem. Hill's third album, "Faith," was released in April and reached the status of platinum just one month later, thanks to hit singles such as "This Kiss." Popular **ER star Gloria Reuben** will sing the Canadian national anthem. Reuben, a Toronto native, has earned Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for "Best Supporting Actress" in recognition of her inspiring performance on the NBC hit show.



BLAKE HARRINGTON





All★Star Equipment

Caps

Players and coaches selected to this year's All-Star Game will wear a New Era cap with the newly designed All-Star logo embroidered along with their signature and uniform number. The lids will be worn during Workout Day and the All-Star Game. The 1998 Midsummer Classic marks the second time that participants will wear the distinct caps.

Jerseys

For the second-straight year, players and coaches will sport micromesh batting practice jerseys produced by Majestic Athletic. The National League's jersey will be green, while American Leaguers will be wearing black. Each player's name and number will be stitched on the back, while his team's logo will appear on the sleeve. These jerseys will be worn on Workout Day and during batting practice prior to the All-Star Game.

Ball

The official baseball of the 1998 Midsummer Classic is a regulation ball produced by Rawlings, the official supplier of baseballs to Major League Baseball. The special ball will feature purple and green threads—in recognition of the hometown Colorado Rockies' official colors—and depict the 1998 All-Star Game logo.

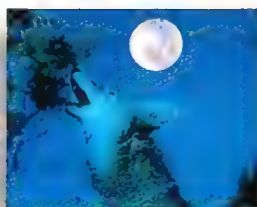
Bats

For the 1998 Midsummer Classic, a special wood bat is given to each player as a keepsake of the event. The bat is produced by Hillerich & Bradsby, the manufacturer of the famous Louisville Slugger bat and the official supplier of lumber to Major League Baseball. These bats are available at retail for fans and collectors alike—you can even have your own name branded onto this piece of All-Star Game history.

EVERYONE KNOWS



Bulls hate the color red.



A full moon makes people crazy.



The Mercedes Sport Utility Vehicle costs a mint.

EVERYONE IS WRONG

Bulls are color-blind and irritated by motion. Just try waving a blue cape at one. There's no hard evidence a full moon adversely affects people, unless romantic liaisons are adverse. And, contrary to popular notions, the M-Class SUV is less than \$40,000; \$33,950 to be precise. Not to mention the C 230 Sedan at \$30,450, the C 280 Sedan at \$35,400, the SLK Roadster at \$39,700, and the CLK Coupe at \$39,850. Old myths die hard, but call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES and we'll be happy to put some to rest for you.

RETHINK YOUR PERCEPTIONS



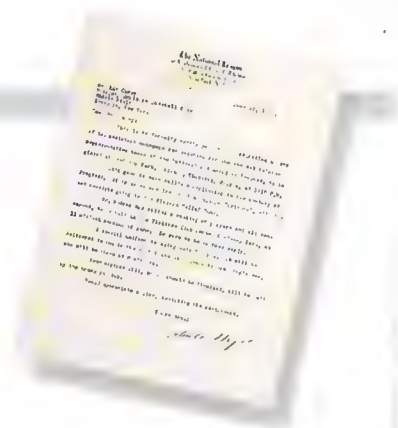
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All★Star Memorabilia

By Dan Schlossberg



Barry Halper boasts a unique collection of All-Star Game items

Outside of the Baseball Hall of Fame, Barry Halper possesses one of the most significant collections of All-Star Game memorabilia you can find.

The New Jersey executive has every All-Star Game program, ticket stub and press pin ever produced—including two different sets from each of the four years (1959-62) when two All-Star Games were played—plus uniforms from the first Midsummer Classic.

"In 1933, the year of the first game, the National League thought it would surprise the American League by wearing special uniforms that said NATIONAL LEAGUE on the front," he says. "I have Chuck Klein's and Max Carey's, plus the original letter the league sent out stating everything about the uniform."

Halper has the complete outfit: a gray flannel jersey with black block letters, plus pants, socks, and a hat with the letters NL that resembles caps worn by today's umpires. Klein's is especially valuable, since he went on to win the Triple Crown that season.

According to Halper, any Hall of Famer's All-Star Game uniform from 1933 is worth collecting. And though it's impossible to place a price-tag on some of the personalized All-Star items he has acquired over the years, he keeps on adding to his collection.

The array of All-Star tickets that Halper possesses leaves him shaking his head in disbelief. Admission to the first game was just \$1.10, he notes, and the same price applied nine years later in 1942.

Halper also owns an autographed picture of four of the five players who struck out against Carl Hubbel in 1934: Al Simmons, Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth and Jimmie Foxx. But

even that's not his most unique piece of history.

"I went to grammar school with Dave Klein, whose father Willie was sports editor of the Newark *Star-Ledger*," he recalls. "I'd give him baseball cards and he'd give me AP wire photos. One of those pictures showed someone holding the chips that came out of Ted Williams' elbow after he broke it during the 1950 All-Star Game. Years later, I showed it to Ted and he said, 'Gee, I expected you to have the chips.'"

More than 20 years after Williams retired, another Boston Red Sox outfielder gave Halper a piece of All-Star history. It happened in 1983,

when the 50th anniversary game was played at the site of the inaugural game, old Comiskey Park in Chicago. Halper's involvement began on the flight from Newark.

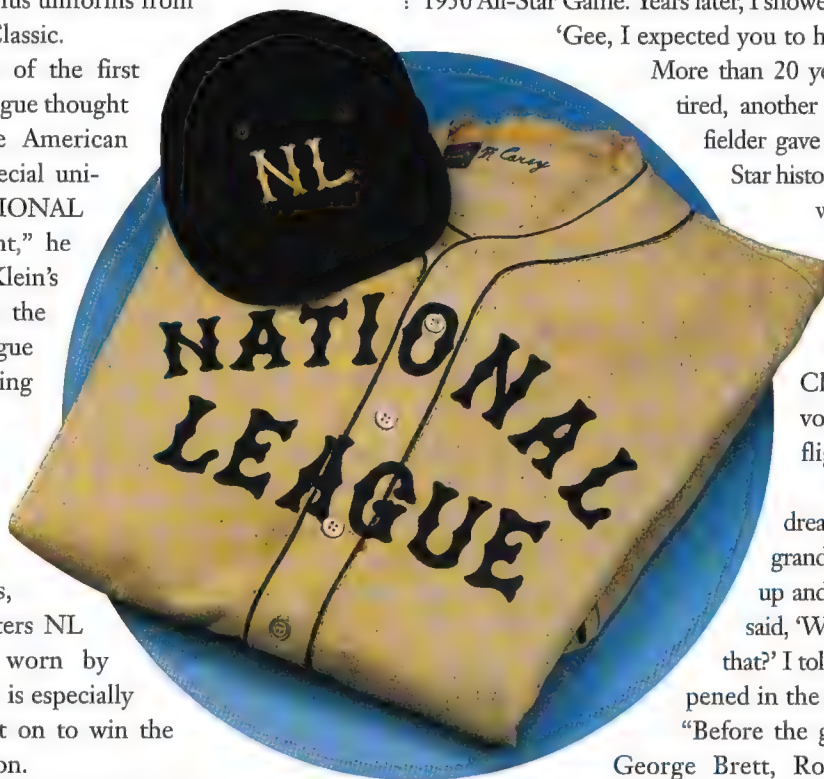
"I fell asleep and dreamt that somebody hit a grand slam," he says. "I woke up and told my wife, but she said, 'What's so different about that?' I told her it had never happened in the All-Star Game."

"Before the game, I bumped into George Brett, Rod Carew and Fred Lynn. I told them, 'One of you three is going to

hit a grand slam today.' Lynn said, 'Why would you say that?' After I told them, they said I was crazy."

"In the first three innings, the American League had the bases loaded three times. Then Lynn finally connected against Atlee Hammaker. After the game, I had him sign a ball: 'To Barry—you called it and I hit it.'"

Indeed, a memory and a ball worth preserving.



Main photo: A vintage National League All-Star Game uniform from the 1930s. Top right: The official NL letter sent out to All-Star participants regarding the new uniform.

In The Zone



PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

Ken Griffey Jr.

"In The Zone" is Fox Sports' critically acclaimed baseball show. A cutting-edge, fast-paced magazine style show designed to attract Saturday morning viewers and keep them tuned into the FOX Saturday Baseball Game of the Week, "In The Zone" combines youthful insights with great music and vivid graphic animation. Engaging hosts Steve Lyons and Valarie Rae Miller deliver a show that's equally instructional and entertaining.



The most exciting news to young and old viewers alike is that Seattle Mariners' superstar Ken Griffey Jr. will appear in every episode of "In The Zone" this season.

Ready for baseball the way you've never seen it before? Then step "In The Zone."

A Web HIT



For the latest news everyday about the game, check out Major League Baseball's official website at majorleaguebaseball.com. Coverage of the Midsummer Classic is no exception to the in-depth information provided all year long. In fact, during All-Star Week, majorleaguebaseball.com will feature live digital photos, audio casts from press conferences and player interviews, in-progress scores and stats, exclusive interviews and feature stories...not to mention top-to-bottom coverage of Pinnacle All-Star FanFest. Get online and catch the action!

Front Row Seats

One of the toughest situations for diehard baseball fans is living outside of their favorite team's TV market. MLB EXTRA INNINGS has the solution. With the MLB EXTRA INNINGS package, you can see up to 35 regular season, out-of-market games a week from the comfort of your own Lazy Boy recliner. It's a great way to see exciting Interleague Play, catch the ever-possible



perfect game and follow each pennant chase as it heats up.

The available games that make up this satellite-delivered package are in addition to those shown on ESPN, FOX, FOX Sports Net, FX, your regional sports network and local television rightsholder. While local and national blackout restrictions apply, MLB EXTRA INNINGS offers baseball fans more of the game they love than anywhere else.

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Armchair All★Stars

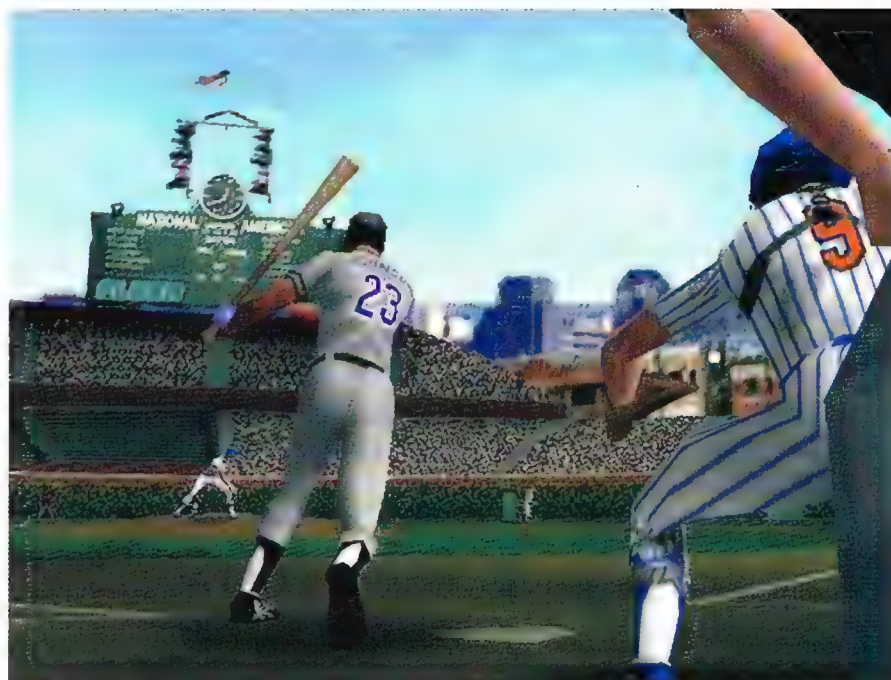
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EA Sports

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All-Star Baseball '99

Acclaim Sports

Endorsed by Colorado Rockies star and 1997 National League MVP, Larry Walker, "All-Star Baseball '99" hit store shelves as hard as a Coors Field home run hits the bleachers. Features include the voices of Yankees radio announcers John Sterling and Michael Kay, 3-D rendered stadiums, true-size player models, more than 600 new motions and over 100 unique batting stances.

Other Major League Baseball titles you can find: Accolade's "Hardball 6," "VR Baseball '99" from VR Sports, GT Interactive Software's "Mike Piazza's StrikeZone," and "Microsoft Baseball 3D" from Microsoft.



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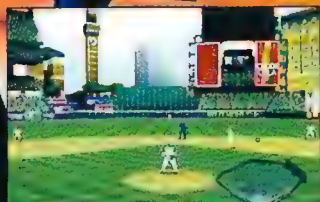
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Triple-A World Series

Now a true Minor League champion can be crowned. The two leagues in Minor League baseball's highest classification, Triple-A, will square off in a best-of-five series at Las Vegas' Cashman Field beginning on September 21. The champions of the International League and Pacific Coast League will compete in what has been tabbed the Triple-A World Series.



ZAGARI/MLB PHOTOS



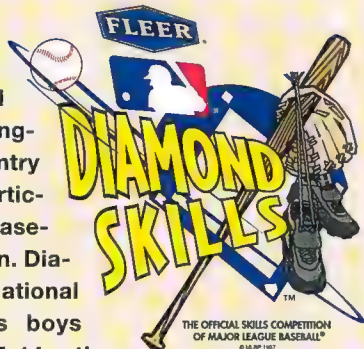
The presidents of the two leagues reached a three-year agreement on the series in March, in conjunction with their partners in the venture, the Las Vegas Convention Center & Visitors Authority and Major League Baseball. It was anticipated at the time of the agreement that all games will be televised nationally.

The format was made possible when the Minors' three previous Triple-A leagues—the IL, PCL and the American Association—were realigned into two leagues prior to this season. The last Triple-A World Series took place back in 1983 and included three teams.

"Major League Baseball gladly supports the decision to stage a Triple-A World Series," said Bud Selig, Chairman of the Major League Baseball Executive Council. "It will enhance the baseball season and bring additional excitement to the game."

Diamonds In The Rough

Fleer Major League Baseball Diamond Skills provides youngsters across the country an opportunity to participate in an exciting baseball skills competition. Diamond Skills is a national program that gives boys and girls, ages 7-14, the chance to showcase their baseball abilities in batting, fielding/throwing and baserunning. Local competitions were held in 46 states and parts of Canada last year and hosted by most Major League teams. Call your local big league club to find out about Diamond Skills competitions in your area.



Field of Dreams

Community baseball parks represent a place Little Leaguers and neighbors gather to enjoy America's pastime. Dreams are born and heroes are made. Unfortunately, a lack of funds has rendered thousands of fields unplayable. Teaming up with Major League Baseball and the Jaycees, True Value launched the "Field Of Dreams" program in 1996 and has refurbished hundreds of ballparks across the country since then.



AP PHOTO

Next Stop... Beantown

Fenway Park will host the 1999 All-Star Game



PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

Baseball's best will gather amidst the shadows of the Green Monster as next year's Midsummer Classic visits Boston. The 70th annual All-Star Game will be the third played at Fenway Park and the last of this century.

The first such contest in the historic stadium came on July 9, 1946 when the American League crushed the National League, 12-0. The offensive star of the game was none other than Red Sox Hall Of Famer Ted Williams, who blasted two home runs, hit two singles and walked in five at-bats.

The Midsummer Classic visited Fenway again in 1961 and ended in a 1-1 tie after nine innings and a 30-minute rain delay. The Tigers' Rocky Colavito hit a first-inning homer for the AL, while the Senior Circuit's only run came on an RBI-single by the Cardinals' Bill White.



ZAGARI/MLB PHOTOS

“ Harry Caray speaking from Wrigley Field.
God willing, hope to see you next year.

So long, everybody.”

That is how Harry Caray closed out his final Cubs broadcast last fall. Tragically, it was his last. On Feb. 18, the 53-year broadcast great succumbed to cardiac arrest at a Rancho Mirage, Calif., hospital at the age of 83.

Ironically, Harry's final moments were spent on center stage. Dining out on Valentine's Day with his wife, Dutchie, Harry rose from the table to acknowledge the cheers of a room full of fans. At that moment, he collapsed, never again to regain consciousness.

The reaction from fans across the globe was an incredible mix of mourning, love and celebration. In Chicago, a spontaneous vigil grew as people from all angles of society visited Harry's plaque at the ballpark's "Walk of Fame." Letters, flowers and Budweiser bottles (some empty, most full) were left in tribute to the fallen star.

Think about what Mike Ditka meant to the Bears. Or what Michael Jordan means to the Bulls. Harry is held in that same reverence in Chicago. In fact, one can make an argument that this mikeman was even more revered than the aforementioned Mikes. Why? Simply because he was one of us.

While Ditka and Jordan both have demonstrated a reluctance to venture too far into the public domain—and understandably so—consider the route taken by Harry. For the majority of his 27 years in Chicago, he chose to be the pied piper of proletariat. The bartenders, the cab drivers, the window-washers—these were his people. He would

gather them as evenings wore on to join him on jaunts through the city, introducing them to others as though he had known them for years.

The man who suffered a near-fatal car accident, and overcame a death-defying stroke and some serious heart maladies, would bounce around Chicago with a step that had 25-year-olds gasping for air.

"I couldn't keep up with him," said Cubs former All-Star third baseman turned Cubs radio analyst Ron Santo. "You have to be in shape to do that, and not exactly the kind of shape where you get up and jog each day."

This from a man who hit 342 homers and won five Gold Gloves, mind you.

In 1987, Harry opened up his own restaurant. From that point on, if he wasn't at the ballpark, you could find him on a barstool. Harry loved the Cubs, conversation and common folk, so he built something of a lodge for the three to come together.

Speaking of conversation, that most aptly describes what went on when Harry was manning the microphone. He is a legend among fans because he maintained a running dialogue with them.

When a fielder misplayed a ball, Harry would say he booted it. When a batter took a third strike, Harry would ask what he was looking at. When a manager would employ some questionable strategy, Harry would question it. Sound familiar? If it doesn't, go to a bar to watch a game, and listen to the typical fan.

STORY BY JAY RAND

ILLUSTRATION BY BILL CIGLIANO

But Harry wasn't simply a cynical critic trying to make a name for himself as some wayward buck-the-system renegade. Because as soon as that player who botched the play lined a double off the ivy, Harry was hollering so loud on that player's behalf that fans sitting in the stands below could hear him. And if the guy with the backwards K happened to tattoo a game-winning homer, viewers with their televisions muted couldn't escape the roar that was Harry.

"Look, I have to inform the fan, even if it hurts a player," Harry said, many times. "If a guy strikes out four times with the bases loaded, what do you say? He had a good swing? Who cares!"

"I don't blast players. I just report what they do, and if they do badly they get a bad report. I work the way I do because I'm just an inveterate fan who happens to be behind the mike."

St. Louis city health records reveal that Harry Christopher Carabina was born March 1, 1914, to parents of Italian and French-Romanian descent. Harry was still an infant when his father died, and just a few years later his mother passed. Thus, he was raised an orphan, with an occasional assist from an aunt.





HOLY COW! Caray was at his finest behind the mike, whether he was telling radio listeners that a batter had just "paaaaaaaahped it up," or simply talking baseball with a player.

Throughout his adulthood, Harry was open about the loneliness and sadness attached to his childhood. He recounted the humiliation he suffered at his grade-school graduation for not wearing the uniform white pants, which he could not afford. Harry said that day motivated him for the rest of his life.

"I don't want to sound like a nickel-and-dime psychologist, but I don't think it's just coincidence Harry Caray was an orphan and had all of those thoughts about not being cared for or not being wanted," then-Cubs announcer Thom Brennaman told the *Chicago Tribune* in 1994. "I think he is very eager for how people receive him now."

That eagerness first paid off in 1945. Never one to be shy, Harry requested a meeting with the chairman of the brewery that sponsored St. Louis broadcasts. The chairman told Harry that he was considering hiring a candidate whose delivery allowed fans to "listen and read the paper at the same time."

"That fried me," Harry recalled. "'That's your problem,' I said. 'People are reading the damn paper while your commercials are on!'"

Harry was hired on the spot, and he went on to broadcast St. Louis games for 25 years. A falling-out with members of the Anheuser Busch ownership group led to his dismissal in 1969 and, ever-the-showman, Harry attended the corresponding press conference with a bottle of a rival beer.

He jumped to the Athletics broadcast team in 1970 before making his maiden voyage to Chicago in 1971, hired

by the White Sox. Another sour relationship with ownership resulted in his departure after the '81 campaign, and Harry cut north for the Cubs.

Harry became an immediate star at Wrigley Field and via the WGN airwaves. His fun-loving, beer-touting, shoot-from-the-hip personality forged a unique relationship with blue-collar Chicagoans. Consider:

Orphan Harry was an underdog...just like the Cubs.

Harry enjoyed his suds...just like the bleacher bums.

Harry believed that baseball was to be played in the sunshine, with the night hours reserved for activities of another kind...just like Chicago's Rush St. devotees.

Harry's singing of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch was the epitome of old-time baseball tradition...just like historic Wrigley Field.

In a nutshell, Harry worked hard and played hard...a mentality long practiced and respected by Chicagoans.

Perhaps that's what made the city's reaction to Harry's death so truly unique. The sadness that accompanied the loss of a spiritual and gifted leader bordered on that of a deceased president.

Tributes were paid that normally are reserved for pop-culture icons, maybe a John Lennon or an Elvis Presley. But most of all, there have been constant celebrations marking the joy and memories that Harry provided during 53 years in the game.

And that, baseball fans, simply can't be equated.

So long, Harry. ♦

Jay Rand is editor of the Chicago Cubs publications department.

Seventh-Inning Honors

In tribute to the legendary broadcaster, this season the Cubs are using "guest conductors" to lead the Wrigley Field faithful in Harry's trademark rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." Conductors are chosen based on connections either to Harry personally, the ballclub or the city of Chicago. They include:

BONNIE BLAIR, Olympic gold medal-winning speed-skater

JIMMY BUFFET, singer & songwriter

CHIP CARAY, Harry's grandson & Cubs TV voice

DUTCHIE CARAY, Harry's wife

MIKE DITKA, former Chicago Bears head coach

ROGER EBERT, movie critic

DENNIS FRANZ, actor

MARV LEVY, retired Buffalo Bills coach

STAN MIKITA, Chicago Blackhawks Hall of Famer

STAN MUSIAL, St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer

CHRIS O'DONNELL, actor

WALTER PAYTON, Chicago Bears Hall of Famer

RYNE SANDBERG, retired Cubs All-Star

VIN SCULLY, Los Angeles Dodgers broadcaster

STEVE STONE, Cubs TV analyst

RICK SUTCLIFFE, retired Cubs pitcher

EDDIE VEDDER, Pearl Jam lead singer & songwriter

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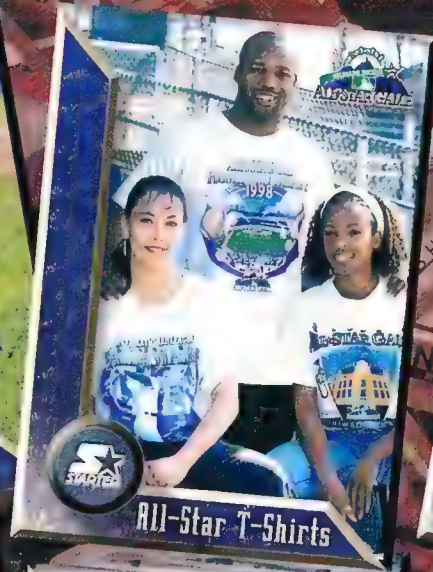
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Catching Up With...

ALL-STARS FOR LIFE

Major League Baseball recently caught up with a trio of its alum—Mark Fidrych, Dock Ellis and Mickey Rivers—to recount their years in the Show and reveal what these former All-Stars have been doing since retiring. BY LISA WINSTON

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that 22 years have passed since Mark Fidrych, the big curly-haired pitcher from Northboro, Mass., took the mound to start the 1976 All-Star Game for the American League. During his rookie year with the Detroit Tigers, Fidrych captured the hearts of baseball fans everywhere.

Nicknamed "the Bird" for his resemblance to Big Bird from *Sesame Street*, Fidrych became one of just four rookie pitchers ever to start an All-Star Game, en route to a 19-9 record and 2.34 ERA. Perhaps even more mind-boggling, in retrospect, were his 24 complete games. He was not only the AL Rookie of the Year winner but was runner-up to Jim Palmer for Cy Young honors.

The All-Star Game was one of Fidrych's few sub-par performances, however, as he took the loss that night in Philadelphia, allowing two runs on four hits in two innings of a 7-1 loss.

"I wanted to do wonders that day. I had a mission and I didn't accomplish it," says Fidrych, who admits he often thinks about that game.

After his spectacular '76 season, the Bird would win just 10 more games in the Majors over the next four seasons, as injuries took their toll. By 1983 he was out of baseball, living back home on his farm in Northboro, driving a truck for a living. These days, he hauls asphalt and gravel with his 10-wheeler during the summer. "In the winter, I do some public relations work here and there," he adds.

Baseball is hardly a distant memory to Fidrych, however. Even now, he is recognizable to baseball fans. His PR work takes him to Detroit and its suburbs, as well as other cities, working with an automotive parts company founded by the late Hank Aguire, a former Tigers player himself. Fidrych appears at shows, signing autographs and chatting with fans.

"I'm lucky," he says. "I still get a good response from the fans, wherever I go."

Fidrych adds that often the parents will

bring along their children to get his autograph, even though the kids usually have no idea who he is. And though there will never be a bronze plaque with his name on it in Cooperstown, Fidrych says that if he could write his legacy as a player it would read 'I was one-in-a-million that made it.'

To the reflective former big leaguer, it would mean that he was one of the lucky few kids who ever make it to the Majors. And though he might be too humble to admit it, even out of those lucky few, Fidrych was, and will always be, one in a million.

Career Highlights – 1976-80

1976 Rookie of the Year

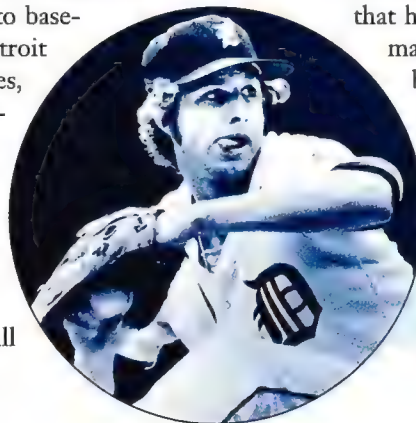
1976 AL All-Star starting pitcher

Tossed 24 complete games in 1976



Calming Up With...

MARK "THE BIRD" FIDRYCH



WEBB CHAPPELL (TOP); BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY (BOTTOM)

REACH FOR THE STARS!



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DOCK PHILLIP ELLIS JR. TOOK THE MOUND AS THE starting pitcher for the National League in the 1971 All-Star Game held at Detroit's Tiger Stadium. Going for the American League was Oakland ace Vida Blue.

On paper, the matchup was not earth-shattering. After all, heading into the break, Ellis had won 14 games for the Pittsburgh Pirates, while Blue had notched 10 in a row.

In the flesh, however, the meeting was historic. It marked the first and only time that the All-Star Game had been started by two African-American pitchers. The significance certainly wasn't lost on Ellis. In fact, to this day, he likes to take at least partial credit for the achievement. For several days prior to the game, Ellis let his opinions known to reporters, particularly that NL All-Star manager Sparky Anderson didn't like him and that baseball would never allow two black pitchers to start the game.

"I used child psychology, and that assured me of history," laughs Ellis, who enjoyed a 12-year career in the Majors.

Ellis knows now that Anderson had intended to start him all along, but the accusation may have colored the manager's selection of the rest of that night's NL pitching staff.

"It shook Sparky up so much that he used only black pitchers," recalls Ellis, who was followed on the mound by the Giants' Juan Marichal,

Ferguson Jenkins of the Cubs and Houston's Don Wilson. "In my deluded little mind, I thought I had done something."

After retiring in 1979, Ellis ventured in numerous areas involving community service, from raising money for sickle-cell anemia to working with black teens. His "real" job is as human resource manager, head of personnel and safety manager for SMB Technical Products in Fort Worth, a manufacturer of rubber goods for oil fields. He also runs a substance abuse program for white-collar addicts—after kicking his own addiction to drugs and alcohol.

Every summer, when All-Star time rolls around, you can

find Ellis back on the field with his old friend, Vida Blue. The two are regulars at the annual Big League Sports Medicine Clinic in Reno, Nev., which includes seminars and workshops in the area of sports medicine and fantasy camp.

"A long time ago, not many black ballplayers were invited to these fantasy camps. So a few people started this up and tied it into a fantasy camp where they brought in players like me and Vida, Orlando Cepeda, Bob Gibson, Lou Brock and Maury Wills," explains Ellis. "We have so much fun."

Looking back on his career, Ellis sums it as such: "I was a ballplayer's ballplayer, and I didn't take anything from nobody."

Career Highlights – 1968-79

1971 NL All-Star starting pitcher

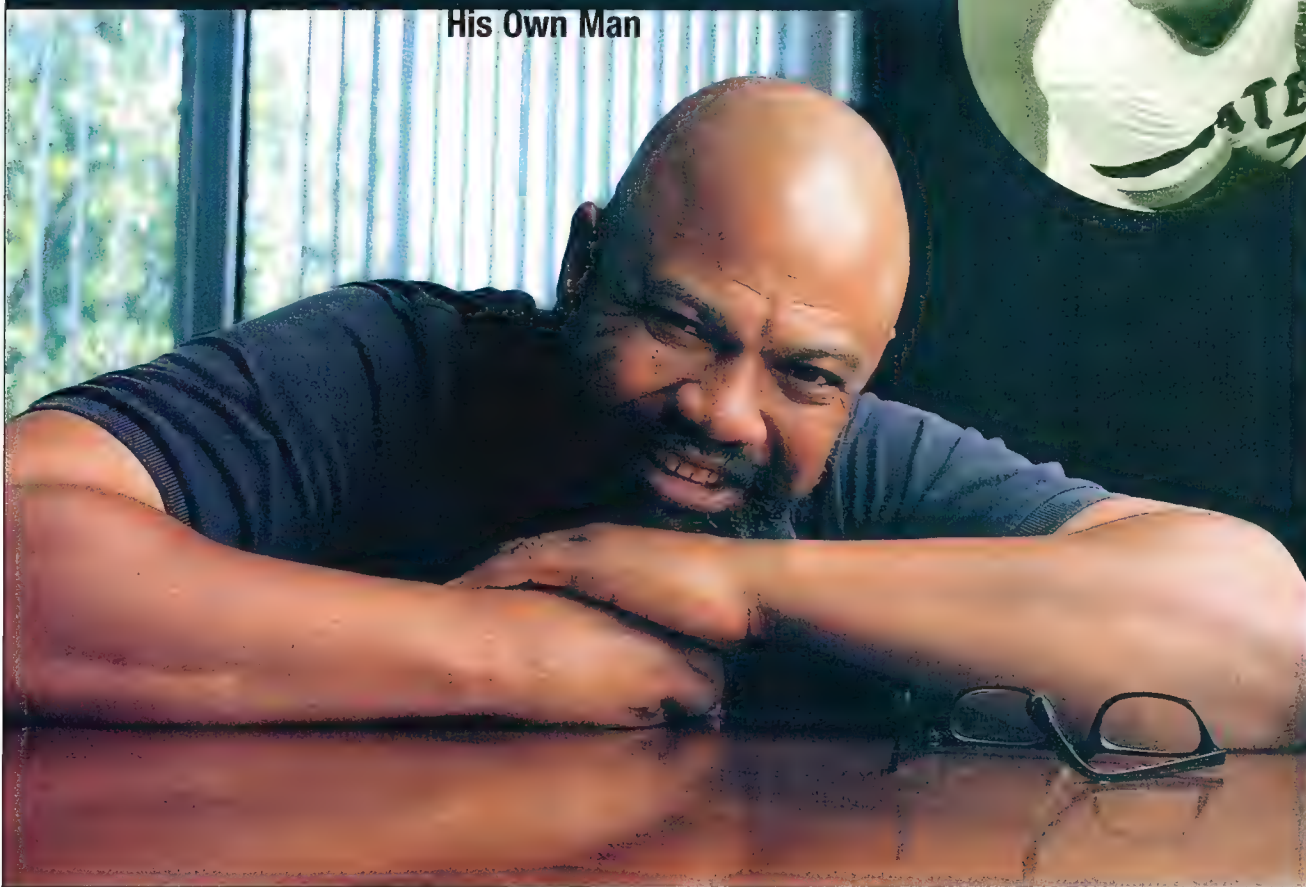
138 -119 won-lost record

Notched 10 or more wins in eight seasons

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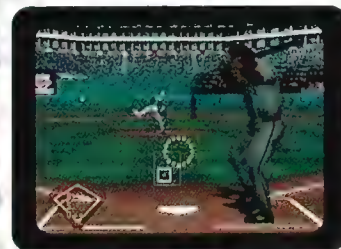
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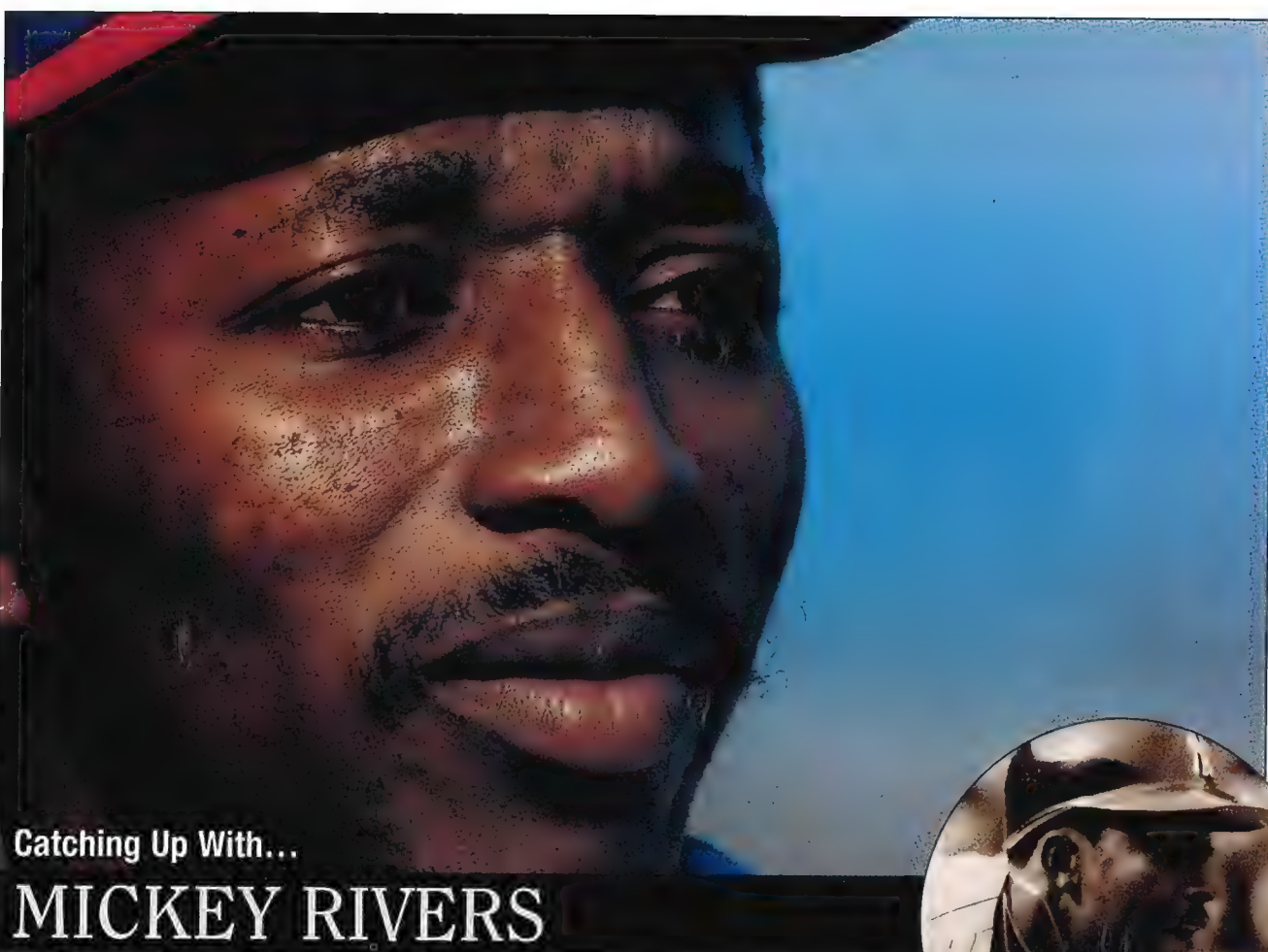
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Catching Up With...

MICKEY RIVERS

Keeping It Fun

THE POWERFUL NEW YORK YANKEES TEAMS OF THE mid-to-late '70s were notable for their collection of All-Stars, such as Reggie Jackson and Thurman Munson. Yet, the Yankee from that era who likely brings the biggest smiles to the faces of New York fans is Mickey Rivers.

Rivers, who appeared in the 1976 All-Star Game, didn't hit with the power of Jackson and he didn't provide the hard-nosed leadership of Munson. What he did for his teammates and fans, however, was to remind them that baseball, after all, is a game. He kept people relaxed and the game in perspective with his easy-going attitude.

He was Mick the Quick, who could look laid-back to the point of limping until he got on the basepaths and then stun you with his base-running speed. He was the joker, and was known by teammates as the "Gozzlehead"—a word he claimed to have originally coined as an affectionate term about them—which meant, he explains, an odd-shaped, funny-looking creature. Kind of like Mick the Quick.

But unlike so many former Yankee stars who maintained a high profile after their playing days were over, the charismatic Rivers seemed to vanish for a while. He retired in 1984 after 15 big-league seasons into such seeming anonymity that there were even rumors that he'd gone down to play

ball in Mexico under the pseudonym Miguel Rivera.

When asked about this, Rivers laughs. What he really did, he explains, was go down to Florida and start up a youth baseball program in Broward County.

"I was doing it by myself at first, lecturing at the schools, working with 5,000 kids, showing them what it takes to play ball," says Rivers. "And even though I have help with it now, it's still what keeps me busy in the off-season. I love to bring the kids to games here, see them meet the players and stand back and watch the kids' faces."

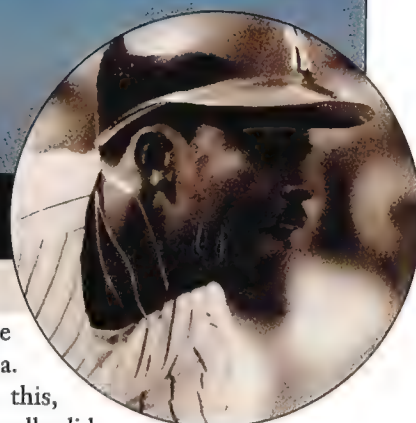
During Spring Training, though, Rivers is once again in Yankee pinstripes, working as a roving instructor in the Minor Leagues, helping prospects with their baserunning, hitting and defensive skills, among other aspects of the game.

"I listen to their troubles, talk with them, give them the opportunity to think about outside activities that might be taking their minds off the game," says Rivers. "I want them to learn to enjoy baseball. We keep the fun in the game.

They don't want to be buried or feel pressure. That's the key." ♦

Career Highlights – 1970-84

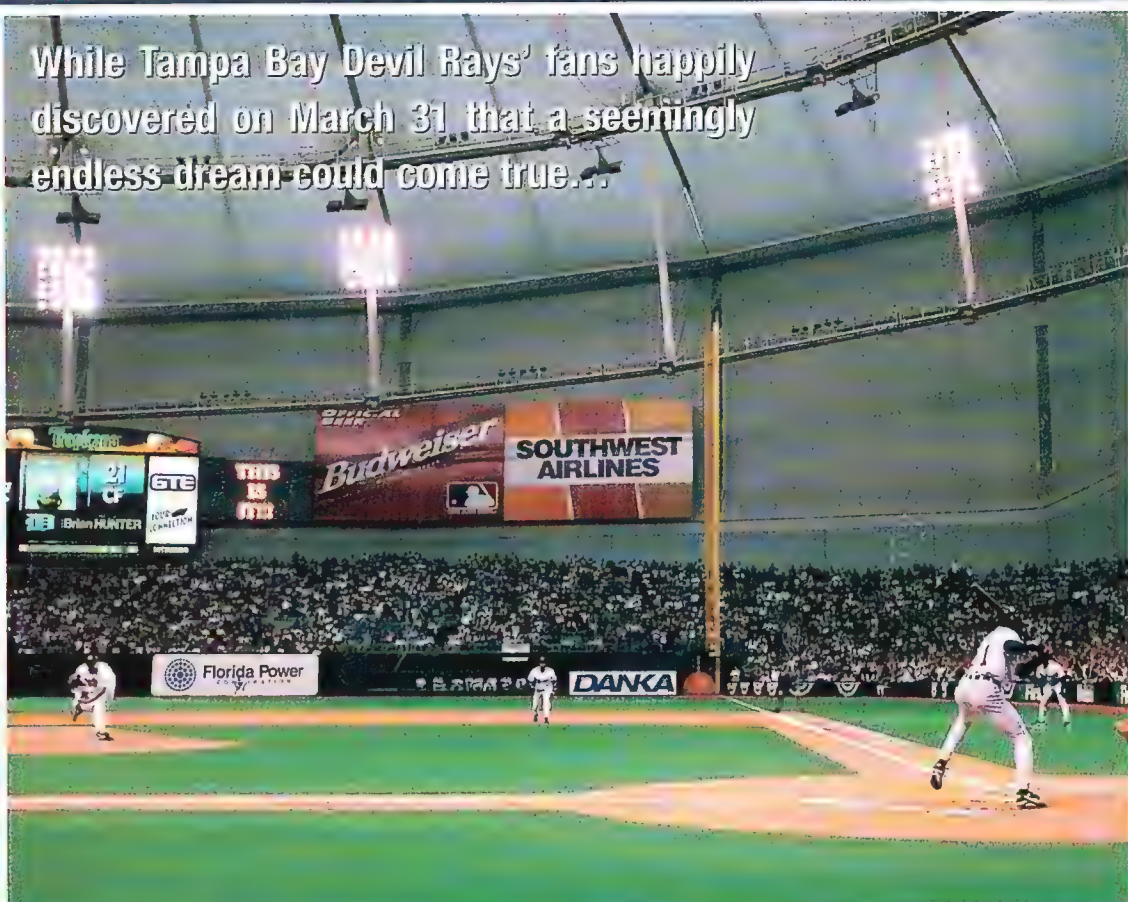
1976 AL All-Star outfielder
.295 lifetime batting average
Compiled 1,660 hits and 785 runs



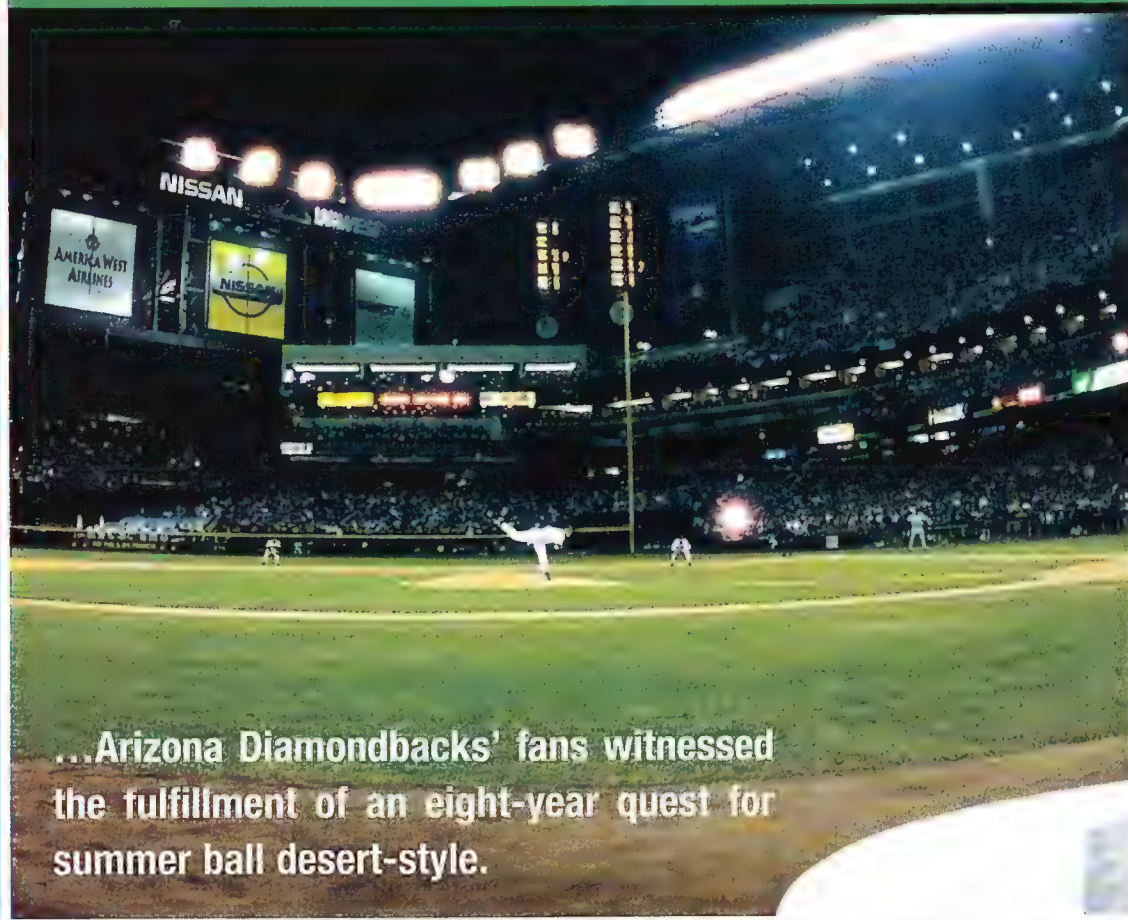
Lisa Winston is a writer for USA TODAY Baseball Weekly.

GRAND

While Tampa Bay Devil Rays' fans happily discovered on March 31 that a seemingly endless dream could come true...



...Arizona Diamondbacks' fans witnessed the fulfillment of an eight-year quest for summer ball desert-style.



tampa

DEVIL RAYS

day

BY BRUCE HERMAN

IN ST. PETERSBURG'S EPIC ROMANCE WITH BASEBALL—ONE DAPPLED WITH MULTIPLE ENGAGEMENTS and bogus unions—the wedding day finally arrived. And the happy couple threw quite a party.

On March 31, the city's circuitous 84-year path to Major League Baseball led to the front door of Tropicana Field, where the Tampa Bay Devil Rays hosted the Detroit Tigers. Outside, fans who had literally come to believe this day would never dawn, gathered by thousands, hours

before the five o'clock game. Inside the extravagantly renovated dome, officials did a final walk-through while players fidgeted in anticipation of what would be, for many of them, the game of their lives.

At 2:25, Vince Naimoli, the club's managing general partner, appeared at the rotunda, the facility's main entrance, to lend introductory words and offer a toast with—what else?—orange juice.

The boss was in a hyperbolic mood. "This," he boomed, "is the greatest day in the history of Tampa Bay."

Minutes later when the gates opened, an unannounced surprise awaited fans. About a dozen players in uniform, plus manager Larry Rothschild, appeared in a receiving line to welcome the faithful, shaking hands and offering words of greeting and gratitude. Until that moment, the arrival of baseball in St. Petersburg still felt hypothetical. But for their skepticism,



Left: First pitches at Tropicana Field and Bank One Ballpark. Above: Merchandise sold quickly outside Tropicana Field on Opening Day.

the area's oft-jilted fans could be pardoned.

Back in 1914, the city was so smitten with the game that it paid all of the St. Louis Browns' expenses as an enticement for the team to hold its Spring Training there. In 1925, the town staged a parade to welcome the New York Yankees as they arrived to do the same. This year, the Devil Rays became the

ninth team to make St. Petersburg its spring home. But the past decade has seen a half-dozen occasions, each ending fruitlessly, on which the arrival of a full-time Major League team seemed genuinely possible, if not imminent.

John Higgins has experienced the frustration more than most. An attorney and civic leader, but foremost a baseball fan, he grew up in St. Pete, and was instrumental in the city's recent efforts to land a franchise. Opening Day was the eve of his third anniversary of being announced as the Devil Rays' first em-

TOP LEFT: PILLING; BOTTOM LEFT: KEE; RIGHT: DIPACE/ALL MLB PHOTOS



Top: Fans in the 100 "Choice Seats" behind home plate can use a computer to request such things as replays or stats. Above, left to right: Fans check out Tropicana Field amenities, while a father and son head inside to see the likes of Devil Rays' Wade Boggs.

ployee—their senior vice president and general counsel.

"This was a new chapter," says Higgins. "We no longer needed to dwell on the years of agony. We got baseball, now let's play baseball."

But before the first pitch could be thrown, an enormous front office and public endeavor was mandated. In the past year or so, a slumberous waterfront downtown, its heart less than a mile from Tropicana Field, gradually resuscitated. Now there are more than 100 eating establishments within a mile of the ballpark. A new trolley and shuttle system was installed to ease the traffic and parking crunch. And a beautification project was helping turn the drab real estate around Tropicana into a warm, tree-lined retail district.

Most of the effort, and indeed the apprehension, centered on 45,360-seat Tropicana Field itself. For almost a decade after its completion,

the facility went sporadically used, waiting for a baseball team that never arrived. By the time one finally did, the stadium presented itself as a hopelessly outdated dinosaur.

But for 17 months leading up to Opening Day, Tropicana Field was transformed from junk to jewel. Thanks to an \$85 million renovation, the facility strikes an ingenious balance between the old and new.

The old: Embedded in sidewalks and planters, a sequence of 84 home plate-shaped plaques—one for each year since the Browns brought baseball to St. Petersburg—point the way along a mile-long boulevard leading to Tropicana's rotunda.

The new: The walkway within 900 feet of the entrance is a mosaic of brilliant, tiny ceramics. Prior to games, a synchronicity of light and sound transforms the concourse into a multimedia theater.

A First for Everything

FIRST PLAYER IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON OPENING DAY

Wade Boggs, at 10:45 a.m.

FIRST PLAYER TO TAKE THE FIELD

Wade Boggs, at 5:05 p.m.

FIRST TV GLITCH

Two Devil Rays run-scoring plays omitted from the Opening Day telecast when the station temporarily lost the feed in the ninth inning.

FIRST BEACH BALL ON THE FIELD

Seventh inning of the opener.

FIRST CLICHÉ

"Baseball is not a sprint, it's a marathon," uttered by several Devil Rays players and personnel immediately after the 11-6 Opening Day loss.

FIRST BROUHAHA

An April 5 debate, lost by the Devil Rays, over a ground rule about whether Frank Thomas' towering blast was a home run.

FIRST POWER OUTAGE

Three batters into the Rays' fifth game, when the lights directly above the field went out, inducing a 17-minute game suspension.

FIRST EJECTION

Manager Larry Rothschild, after about five seconds of "discussion" following a disputed call at second base against Anaheim on April 26.

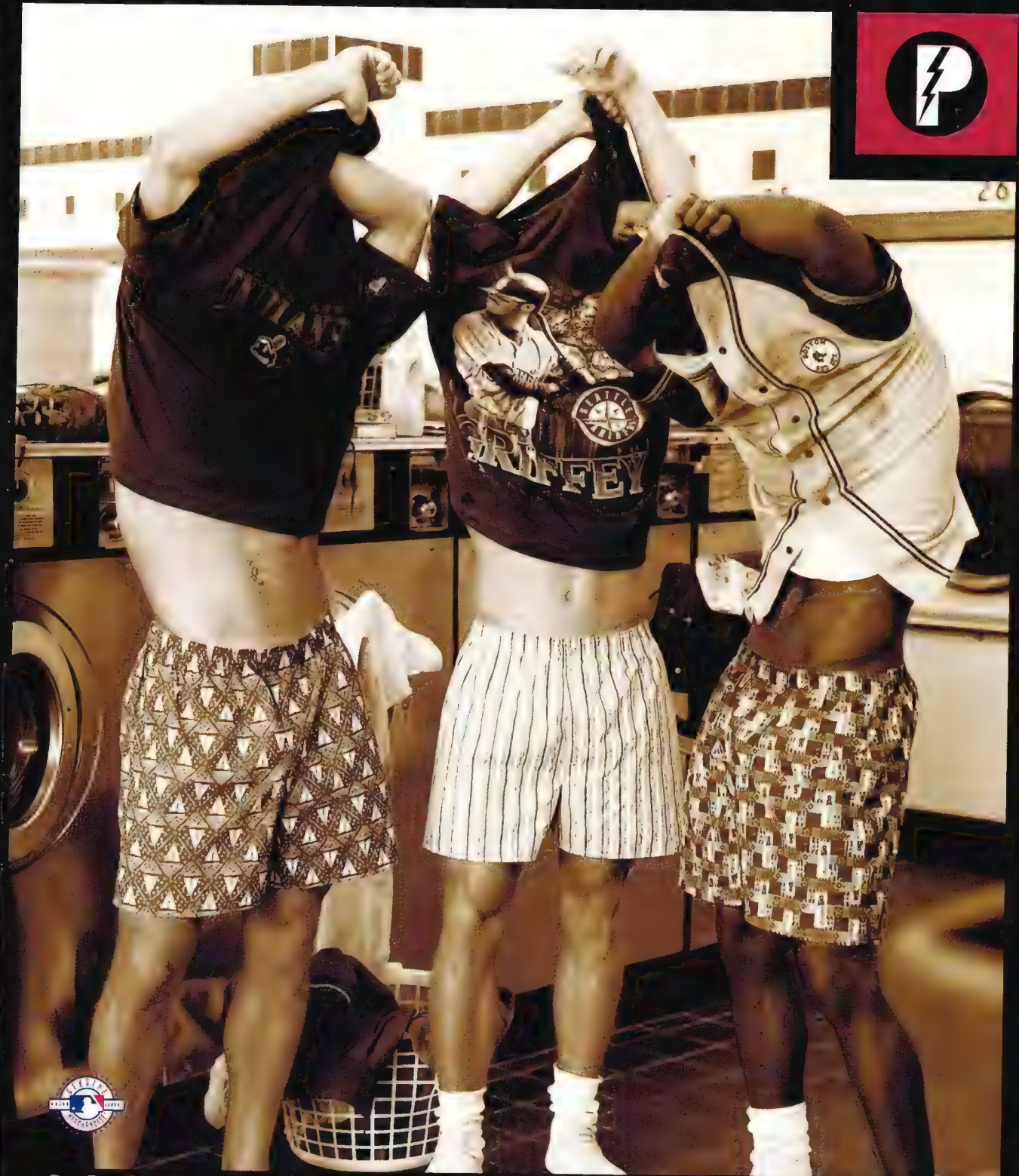
FIRST INDOOR SHOWER

When a foul pop-up hit by Oakland's A. J. Hinch on April 28 shattered an overhead light, causing a downpour of glass onto the field and a four-minute delay.

FIRST MEDIA ERROR

A map in *USA Today* showing Tropicana Field in Tampa.

(Part of this list was first printed in the St. Petersburg Times.)

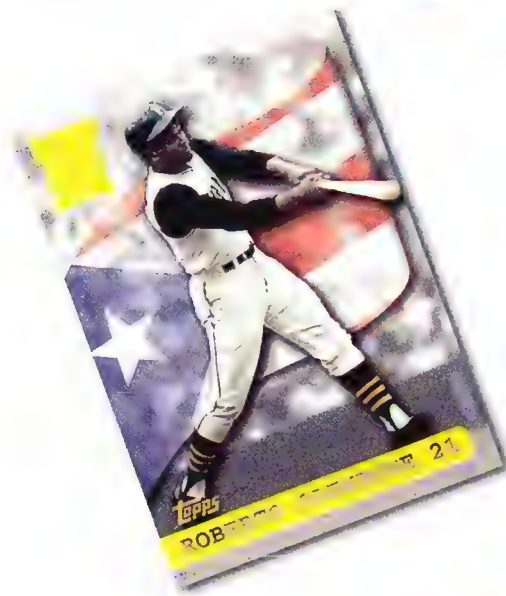


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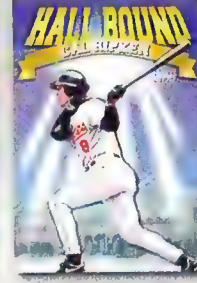
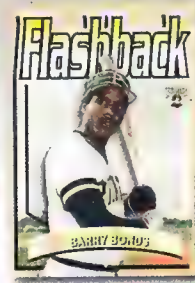
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Basic Card



OWN THE GAME



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The Opening Day lineups announced, players and fans paused for the first singing of the National Anthem at Tropicana Field.

The old: The facade is strikingly reminiscent of Ebbets Field. And inside, the park's irregular outfield configuration, all-dirt basepaths and close proximity of the stands to the diamond add an unmistakably nostalgic air.

The new: Total entertainment theming and conspicuous technology plant Tropicana Field firmly in the 21st Century.

By game day, just one hour before left-hander Wilson Alvarez toed the rubber, Tropicana Field became a stage.

First, the U.S. Drum and Bugle corps marched into the outfield and performed, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a heart-tugging video featurette, "If You Build

It"—bittersweet in its references to past failures to lure a team.

The ceremonial first pitch became actually four. Hall of Famers Monte Irvin, Al Lopez, Stan Musial and Ted Williams, all of whom have ties to the area, tossed balls to home.

Finally, an admittedly nervous Alvarez recorded the first Devil Rays statistic—ball one.

"It was a great relief to have that first pitch thrown," said Higgins. "The building worked so well, and the fans liked it."

Fans hardly seemed to care that Tampa was thumped, 11-6. "Hurts So Good," blared the St. Petersburg Times headline the next morning.

To a man, the players were

solemnly moved by what had just taken place.

"I had chills all over my body," confessed outfielder Rich Butler.

"I think," said Quinton McCracken, the first-ever Devil Rays batter, "we were more excited for the fans, the ones who had waited so long for this day."

Pitcher Jim Mecir called it, "an amazing day. If this kind is the kind of support we're going to have, this will be a very special place to play."

"You can tell," said Wade Boggs, standing at his locker after the game, "Tampa Bay is ready for baseball." ♦

Bruce Herman is a freelance writer and editor based in St. Petersburg, Fla.

A Ruthian Tale

Little more than a mile from Tropicana Field stands Mastry's Bait and Tackle shop—a touch of old Florida nestled in the middle of a brand new ballgame. Outside, a rack of cane fishing polls conjures Twainian images. Inside, where it is cramped with all things nautical, patrons discuss what's biting. A pot of cooked collard greens sits on a stove. And in a smudgy rear office, Mike Mastry sits with his memories.

"It's gonna work out," he says, glancing at a picture of himself and Babe Ruth. "St. Pete was ready. I don't see how it can miss."

Born in 1917, the son of a Syrian immigrant, Mastry has lived through much of the city's 84-year dance with baseball. His love affair with the game began in the early thirties when, as teen-ager, he went into business with The Bambino himself. Sort of.

"The Yankees trained here then, and I would go to the five-and-dime store and buy a box of balls for 25 cents apiece," he recalls. "I'd go over to the park and ask Babe to sign them for me, then I'd sell them to fans who came to the games for \$2.50."

For several years, he generated \$300-\$400 each spring, the proceeds of which went to his family. To this day, he feels indebted to Ruth.

"He posed for that photo," he says, "so I could tape it to my box of balls to prove the autographs weren't forgeries....If you met him, you couldn't help but like him. He was a good ol' guy, had this big ol' voice."

One time, Mastry hawked team photos of the 1934 Yanks in the stands for a dollar. "When I was done," he reminisces, "I asked the guy who hired me to sell 'em what I was gonna get as a wage. He said,



Mastry at his tackle shop.

"Here, have one of these," and he gave me one of the pictures."

But Mastry got the last laugh. He took that photo and had every player—Ruth, Gehrig, Dickey, Lazzeri, Combs, et al—sign it. Next to his shot with Ruth, the photo is his most cherished piece of memorabilia.

Until now, his allegiance has been exclusively to the Yankees. But there's a new game in town. He knows almost none of the Rays' players by name, but he's willing to give them a chance. "There's a team in St. Pete now," he says. "I have to go for them. That's all there is to it."

DIAMONDBACKS Arizona

BY MIKE MCCORMICK

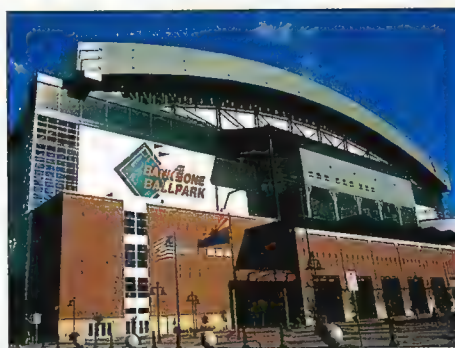


WITH ONE SWING IN HIS THIRD MAJOR LEAGUE AT-BAT, A 22-YEAR-OLD ESCALATED THE hopes of baseball fans throughout an entire western state. It's March 31, 1998. Opening Day in Arizona. Travis Lee has just blasted the expansion Diamondbacks first-ever home run.

There couldn't have been a more fitting inception to the franchise than a season-opening roundtripper by the man who's been tabbed as its present *and* future. After

establishing himself as the country's best college baseball player at San Diego State in 1996, the Minnesota Twins selected Lee with the second-overall pick in the '96 June draft. When contract negotiations hit a stalemate, he was declared a free agent and signed with the Diamondbacks on October 11, 1996. The Twins top pick became the man Arizona would build its franchise around.

Lee paid immediate dividends on Opening Day against the Colorado Rockies. He collected the D-Backs first base hit in the first inning (which also happened to be his very-first Major League at-bat), laced another single in the fourth, then belted the homer in the sixth. The Rockies won the game, 9-2, but that didn't stop the



Top: A few fans find comfort against the giant baseballs surrounding Bank One Ballpark. Above: The ballpark awaits the arrival of its fans.

fans in Phoenix or the Diamondbacks organization from savoring their first taste of the Show.

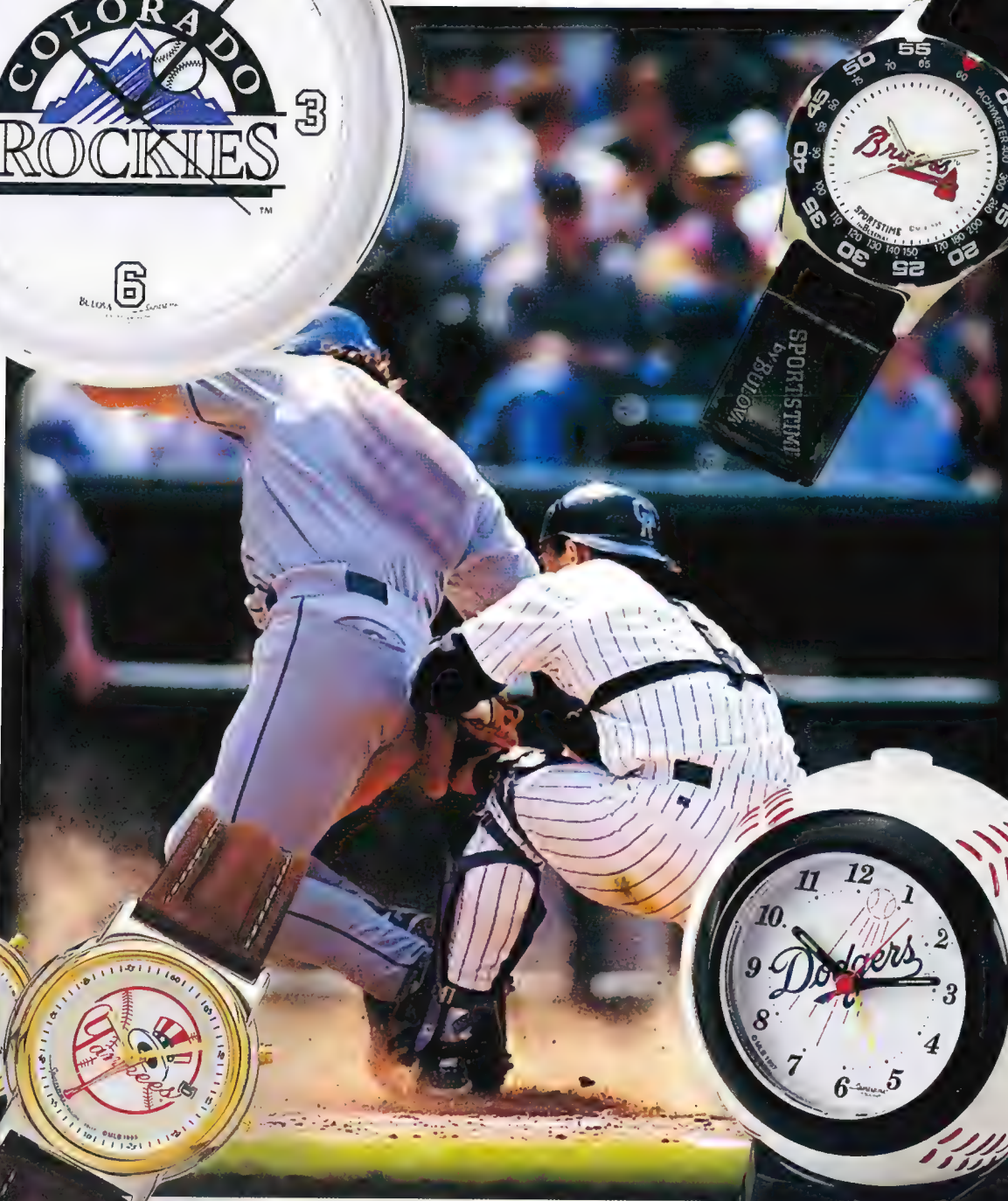
"The crowd was crazy out there tonight," Lee said after the game. "Now I know I'm in the big leagues." Lee finished his first big league game 3-for-4 and was immediately

surrounded by a baseball-hungry Phoenix press. "The personal performance doesn't mean that much to me. I wish we could have pulled the game out. All I wanted to do was try and concentrate on baseball and hit the ball hard tonight."

As if on cue, Diamondbacks Managing General Partner Jerry Colangelo worked his way through the media circle and flipped a baseball to Lee. "That's your home run ball," Colangelo proudly said.

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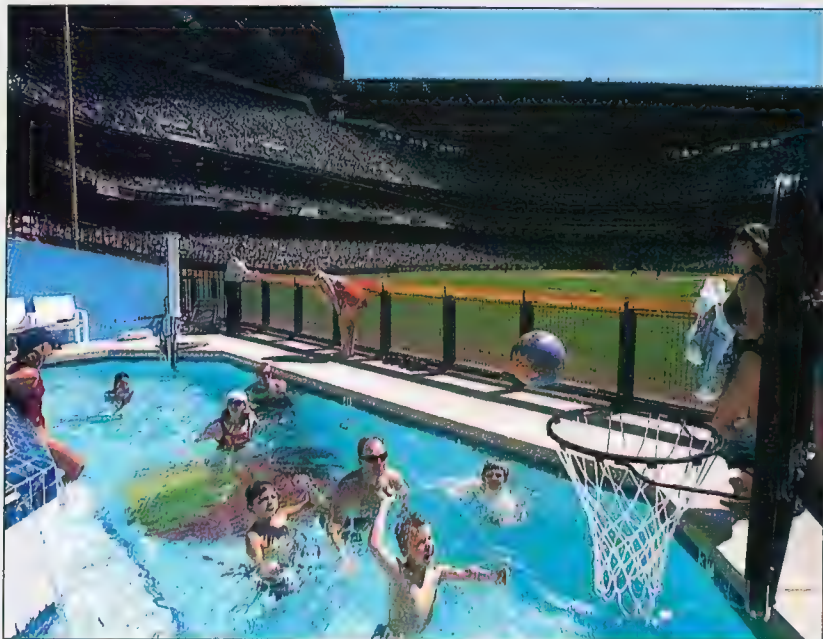
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Above: When the action between the lines gets too hot, a few lucky D-backs' fans can cool down in the BOB's pool, just beyond the right-field fence. Left: Arizona fans are treated to a blitz of Opening Day goodies.

"We found the guy who caught it and convinced him to give it up. But it cost us two season tickets!"

Lee, who recently turned 23, thanked Mr. Colangelo and proudly examined the ball. "That'll go well in the trophy case," he beamed.

Much like Lee, Colangelo had good reason to feel ecstatic about Arizona's coming-out party. He couldn't have envisioned a better scenario when his dream to hold a Major League franchise began in 1993. It was November of that year when the Phoenix Suns President and CEO first announced that he would put together an ownership group to apply for a baseball franchise. The citizens of Phoenix were skeptical at first. It was, after all, just 1990 when two separate investment groups initially sought a franchise for the city, only to be denied by the

National League for its next round of expansion.

Colangelo would take a different approach, however, and ultimately meet with success. In February of 1994, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, hoping to land a franchise, approved a quarter-cent sales tax to help fund construction of a baseball stadium. The tax helped raise \$238 million. Just over a year later, on March 9, 1995, Colangelo and the city of Phoenix received word that Major League Baseball's owners awarded Arizona its team. With the addition of baseball, Phoenix became one of only 10 metropolitan areas to boast a franchise in all four major professional sports leagues, along with Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Miami, New York, Philadelphia and the San Francisco Bay area.

The subsequent three years, leading up to Opening Day, thus became a whirlwind for the new organization.

Hiring the individuals who would wield the most influence over the selection and development of players represented the next step in building the club. Diamondbacks president Richard H. Dozer called the addition of scouting director Don Mitchell in 1995 the most important baseball hire up until that point.

"The Diamondbacks couldn't have chosen anyone who can do a better job of heading up their scouting department than Don Mitchell," said Chuck LaMar, general manager of fellow expansion club Tampa Bay.

"It's a tremendous challenge to build a scouting department from the very beginning and develop a philosophy about the type of player we're going to want as an Arizona Diamondback," Mitchell said after being hired.

By September 1995, the team signed its first players when pitcher Jose Luis Bido and catcher Jhonathan Leyba, both teenagers from the Dominican Republic, inked rookie league contracts. Just two months later, Arizona recruited skipper Buck Showalter, only weeks after his New York Yankees were knocked out of the '95 playoffs.

The process of building an organization suddenly took full swing and Showalter had the unique opportunity to join a team 28 months before it would play its first game. That allowed him to have input on every aspect of the team, from the design of the uniforms to the construction of the stadium, Bank One Ballpark, for which ground was broken the day after Showalter signed—November 16, 1995.

Bank One Ballpark, affectionately known in Arizona as the BOB, became the organization's cornerstone. Designed by Ellerbe Beckett, the ballpark has instantly transformed itself into one of the most unique venues for watching a game.

Its retractable roof and panels behind the outfield mark the ballpark's

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Greg Colbrunn	Terry Steinbach
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A First for Everything

FIRST CEREMONIAL PITCH

Thrown by a pair of young fans, Richard and Ashley Volpe, who were randomly selected while sitting in the upper deck.

FIRST "OPENING"

Forty minutes before the first pitch was tossed, fans were treated to a high-tech spectacle, as BOB's retractable roof was opened.

FIRST SAFE LANDING

Five members of the Air Force Academy's "Wings of Blue" parachuted their way through the opening in the roof.

FIRST RETIRED NUMBER

No. 42 on Opening Day. In honor of Dodger great Jackie Robinson, the number was permanently retired by Major League Baseball last season.

FIRST CHIN MUSIC

When Alan Benes airbrushed Colorado's Todd Helton with high heat in the top of the second.

FIRST MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

Occurred in the bottom of the fifth inning. No word on whether or not she said yes.

FIRST SPLASHDOWN

When Matt Williams delivered a baseball into the swimming pool just beyond the left-field fence, courtesy of a "ground-pool double" on April 3.

FIRST "W"

Diamondbacks receive a curtain call after 3-2 victory over San Francisco on April 5.

FIRST MOONBALL SINKER

Courtesy of a direct-hit home run ball into the pool off the bat of Florida's Jeff Zaun on April 19.

FIRST OPEN DIPS

When tryouts for a refreshing dip in the BOB's pool took place during "Open Swims" on May 17-18.

most unique features. In fact, the BOB—after 28 months of construction and \$354 million—stands as the only sports facility in the world featuring a retractable roof, air conditioning and a natural playing field.

Other unique amenities include a swimming pool behind the right-field wall, a dirt path between the pitcher's mound and home plate, reminiscent of fields in the early 1900s, and a "double warning track" which features a strip of grass between the dirt warning track and the outfield wall. All of these features combine modern luxuries with an old-time feel.

Now, flash to March 31, 1998. The BOB and all its intricacies finally take center stage on Opening Day. "We've been waiting three years for this," said general manager Joe Garagiola Jr. during pregame ceremonies. "Some days, it felt like we had to wait three years. Sometimes, it felt like it's only been five minutes."

The 47,000-plus in attendance for the opener enjoyed an experience as unique as the BOB itself. Jackie Robinson's daughter, Sharon, along with Willie Mays, Frank Robinson and NL President Leonard S. Coleman, officially retired Jackie's No. 42 uniform jersey on behalf of the Diamondbacks.

The pre-game festivities included singers and dancers, followed by Little Leaguers waving their hats to John Fogerty's beloved baseball tune, "Centerfield." Then, three individuals slid down from the ceiling on ropes to deliver the bases. Finally, just 40 minutes prior to the first pitch,

fans watched in awe as the mammoth roof dramatically opened up.

"There's only one word to explain how I feel," said an enthusiastic Colangelo. "This is incredible."

The game itself proved to be less significant, as the Rockies trounced the D-backs, but that didn't seem to matter to fans or players.

"It would have been nice to win, but half the teams who played today had to lose," said shortstop Jay Bell. "The club went all-out with the ceremony today. It's something we'll always remember."

Another free agent acquisition, Opening Day starter Andy Benes, commented how he felt both excited and a bit nervous about the historical significance of throwing the Diamondbacks' first pitch.

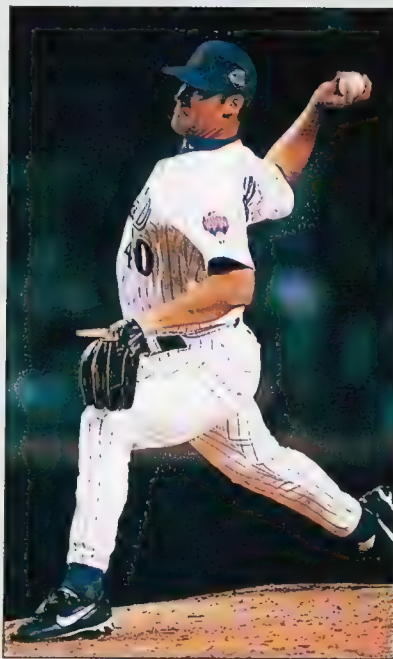
"Once I finally got out there, I was relaxed and I felt at home. It's an honor to be here. I have a lot of respect for this organization."

By the end of the evening, back in the clubhouse, a sizable

array of reporters still circled young Travis Lee's locker.

On a night of firsts for the Arizona franchise, Lee's night of firsts reigned as the ultimate thrill. First big league game. First career hit and home run. First Diamondbacks hit and home run. First taste of Major League Baseball in Arizona. As Lee fielded questions like a seasoned pro, he again glanced at his home run ball and sounded like a rookie for the first time. "It was a great relief to get rolling." ♦

Mike McCormick is associate editor for Major League Baseball Properties.



Though Andy Benes didn't earn a victory in Arizona's first game, having been the starter is an honor he'll always cherish.

BY BEN GREENMAN

THE NUMBERS GAME

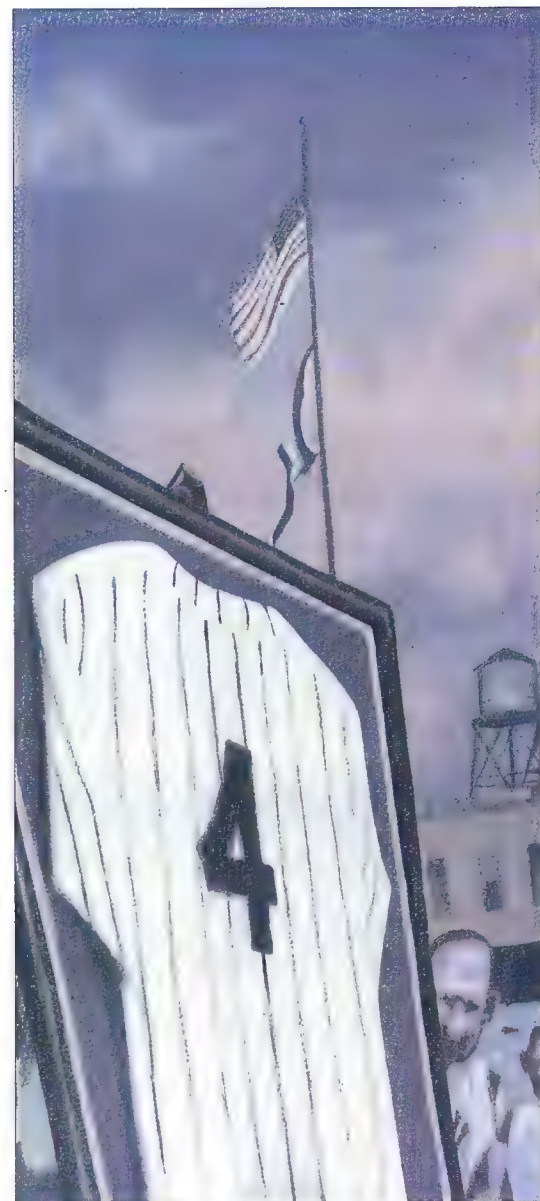
Having your number retired is a sure step toward achieving immortality.

When people retire, they often quietly pack up, sometimes leaving the cities where they lived, loved and labored to grow old amidst warmer climes. Meanwhile, back at the office, the Monday after the Friday of a retiree's departure, someone else is sitting in his old chair and dialing numbers on his phone. It's not especially cruel, it's just the way the world works.

Numbers have it much better. When they are retired, huge celebrations are planned. Thousands pay

tribute to them, thronging to baseball parks, football fields and basketball arenas. They are hoisted into the upper reaches of the stadiums and set aside as memorials. Retired numbers are decommissioned. No player can wear them ever again, yet these numbers serve as daily reminders to fans of the men so honored for their contributions to the game.

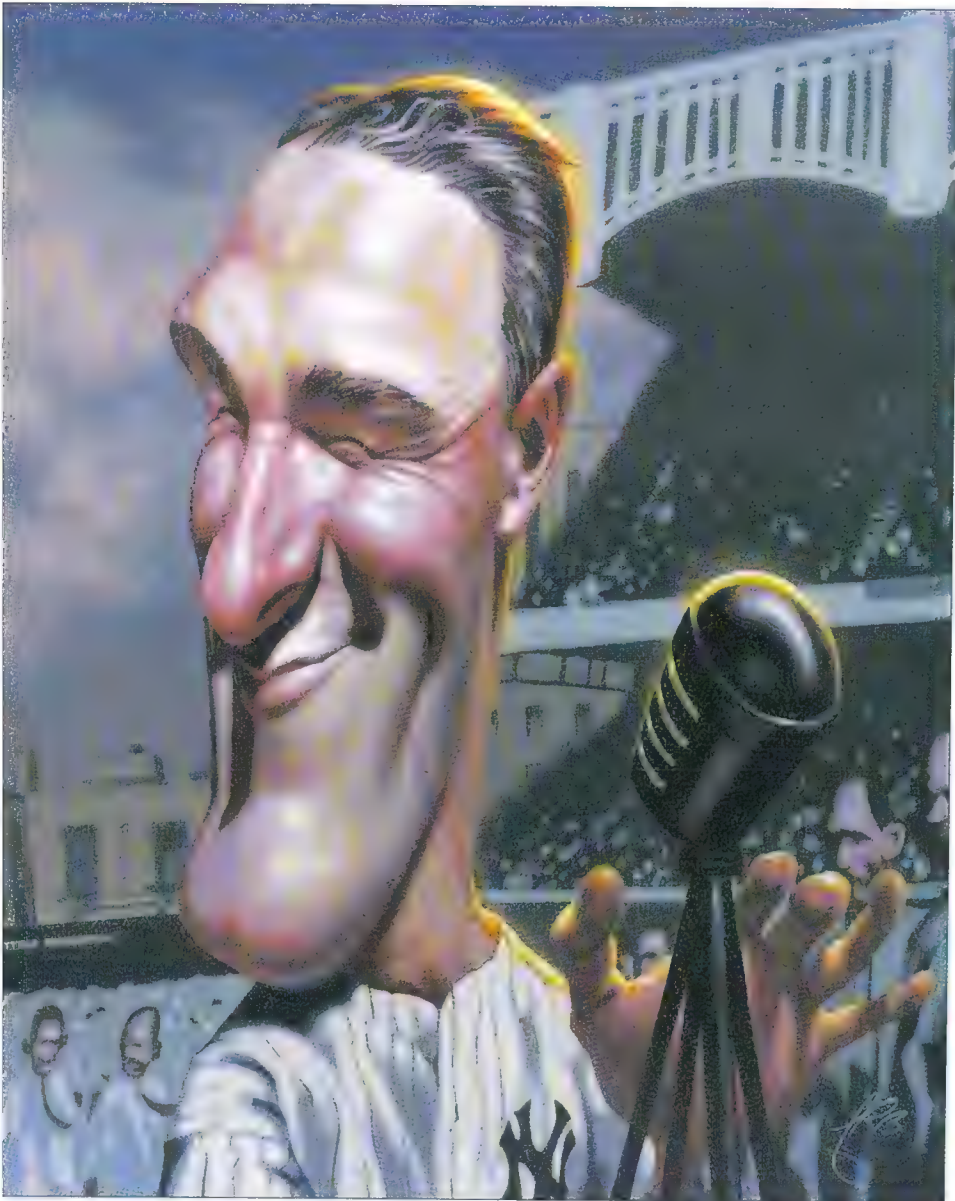
Ever since the New York Yankees hung up Lou Gehrig's #4 in 1939, the retiring of baseball uniform numbers has been one of the game's most sacrosanct practices. Of the



thousands of powerful sluggers, canny pitchers, sharp-gloved fielders, wily managers, and regal executives who have contributed to the development of the game, only 120 of the game's elite have had their numbers retired. By comparison, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown has 237 members.

Most fans know that Gehrig, the legendary Iron Horse who was stricken by a fatal illness at a young age, was the first player to have his number retired. But few can guess the second. Babe Ruth? Nope. The Bambino had to wait until 1948 to see his pinstriped #3 rise alongside his team-

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES BENNETT



mate's uniform. The second player to have his number frozen for posterity was New York Giants southpaw Carl Hubbell (#11), a Hall of Famer who won 253 games in a 16-year career that spanned from 1928 to '43.

In the early days, numbers were retired to pay tribute to careers that had recently ended, or to stars who were ailing. They were part of the farewell tour—Ruth's ceremony came only months before his death. And retirement was hardly a league-wide practice. In fact, the first five uniform retirements came courtesy of the Yankees and the Giants. The Giants made sure Hubbell's uniform wasn't lonely

by honoring the #4 of player/manager Mel Ott, the first National Leaguer to belt 500 home runs. And the Yanks completed their triangle of early stars by retiring Joe DiMaggio's #5 in 1952, the year after the Yankee Clipper ended his brilliant 13-year career.

The late '50s witnessed a few more retirements—the Pirates hoisted Billy Meyer's #1 and Honus Wagner's #33, and the Indians honored Bob Feller's #19 in 1957, the year after he completed a memorable 18-year, 266-win career with Cleveland. Among those getting the nod during the '60s included such modern-day legends as Robin

Roberts (Phillies, #36, 1962), Stan Musial (Cardinals, #6, 1963), Warren Spahn (Braves, #21, 1965) and Mickey Mantle (Yankees, #7, 1969).

By 1970, the retirements were coming fast and furious. With the exception of special cases—Roberto Clemente's #21, which was retired by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1973 after the outfielder's tragic death in a plane crash—the practice began to shift toward a more general lifetime-achievement honor. In 1972 alone, nine players saw their numbers retired, including Yogi Berra (Yankees, #8), Roy Campanella (Dodgers, #39) and Willie Mays (Giants, #24).

Through the '70s and '80s, franchises used the practice to celebrate their history. The White Sox paid tribute to Hall of Famer Luke Appling, who starred with Chicago from 1930 to '50, by immortalizing his #4 in 1975, and the Red Sox honored their hero of the '40s and '50s, Ted Williams (#9), in 1984. And former expansion clubs such as the New York Mets (Tom Seaver, #41, 1988) and Minnesota Twins (Harmon Killebrew, #3, 1974, and Rod Carew, #29, 1987) have added their own legacies to baseball history.

Last year, some former stars from the past 25 years were added to the list, including Carlton Fisk (White Sox, #72), Ozzie Smith (Cardinals, #1), Don Mattingly (Yankees, #23), Kirby Puckett (Twins, #34), and Tommy Lasorda (Dodgers, #2). But it was the Major League-wide retirement of Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson's #42 that deservedly commanded the most attention in 1997.

Though free agency and expansion are reducing the long-term links between players and individual clubs, uniform retirements are bound to continue as long as great athletes leave an indelible mark on the game. From Gehrig to Robinson and into the 21st century, the days of one of baseball's most prestigious traditions are hardly numbered. ♦

Ben Greenman is a writer living in Brooklyn, N.Y.

DESPITE VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON SIGNING PLAYERS
FROM THE FAR EAST, COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN AND KOREA HAVE
BECOME SUDDEN HOTBEDS FOR MAJOR LEAGUE TALENT



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ASEBALL PLAYERS FROM THE FAR EAST USED TO BE

CURIOSITIES, STRANGERS FROM A STRANGE LAND WHO

MIGHT VISIT SPRING TRAINING, BE A NOVEL STORY FOR

A FEW DAYS AND THEN DISAPPEAR WITHOUT MAKING A

BLIP ON THE BASEBALL RADAR SCREEN.

WHEN MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS WOULD TOUR THE FAR

EAST, TALES WOULD BE TOLD OF CERTAIN PITCHERS WHO

OPENED SOME EYES BY RETIRING AMERICAN HITTERS.

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BELOW: TOKYO
RESIDENTS WATCH
IRABU'S MAJOR
LEAGUE DEBUT,
BROADCAST LIVE
FROM NEW YORK.
RIGHT: JAPANESE
"K" SIGNS.



But those reports were usually dismissed as no more than polite bows to the hospitality of the hosting cities.

However, the regard for players from the Far East is no longer mere lip service. Players from Japan and Korea have started to make an impact in the Major Leagues. And despite restrictive rules that inhibit the signing of such players, virtually every club in the Majors has a scouting presence in the Far East.

Indeed, the market for Japanese and Korean players in particular is increasingly serious business, with the trickle of players arriving in the United States likely to become a

flood once negotiations to ease movement are completed. A quick look around the Majors reveals the impact Asian players have made on several clubs.

- The Los Angeles Dodgers' strength in recent years has been their starting pitching, largely because of the presence of Korea's Chan Ho Park and Japan's Hideo Nomo, who is now with the New York Mets.

- Few recent negotiation battles were more fevered than the wrestling for the rights to Japan's Hideki Irabu, a battle won by the New York Yankees who now rely on Irabu as one of their mainstay pitchers.

- Ravaged by injuries throughout the first half of the 1998 season, the New York Mets were able to stay afloat because of their pitching. An important member of their rotation is Japan's Masato Yoshii. He was joined in early June by Nomo, his former teammate from the Kintetsu Buffaloes in Japan.

- The Anaheim Angels' bullpen was one of the best in the American League West in 1997, largely because of the reliable middle-inning work of Japan's Shigetoshi Hasegawa.

These five are the most successful products thus far of the growing Asian influence in the Major Leagues. And they are just the beginning. More than 20 other Japanese and Korean prospects were in Spring Training camps this season, all this despite a year-old freeze on signing Asian players other than free agents. That prohibition remains the subject of ongoing negotiations between Major League Baseball and the federations governing baseball in Korea and Japan.

When negotiations are completed, Major League Baseball hopes that the process of signing Asian players will be simplified. When that happens, the import business will likely boom.

The reason, simply, is pitching. Desirable every-day players from the Far East are a rarity. Scouts say that the majority of Asian every-day players are not physically strong enough to face the best of American pitching. Asian pitchers, however, are a different story.

"There are many pitchers there who not only have good arms but more importantly know how to pitch," says Mets skipper Bobby Valentine, who spent the 1995 season managing in Japan. "The best Japanese pitchers can hold their own with any of our pitchers. As we've seen with Yoshii, Nomo and Irabu, they can come in here and not just compete but win. And there are more like them."

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TOP: JOHN JACONO; BOTTOM: AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

PER
TILE

GROUND

Under general manager Dan Duquette, the Boston Red Sox have largely concentrated on Korean pitchers. They signed two young prospects from Korea last year while also landing Dominican-born Robinson Checo, who was pitching for a Japanese team.

"Our scouts come back continually impressed by the quality of pitching overseas," says Duquette. "There is a large number of quality arms in Asia and it's an area where every club must pay increasing attention."

The internationalizing of Major League Baseball has been happening for decades but the foreign influence has never been greater than it is now. When the 1998 season commenced, over 20 percent of all players on Opening Day rosters were born outside the United States, representing 17 different countries and Puerto Rico.

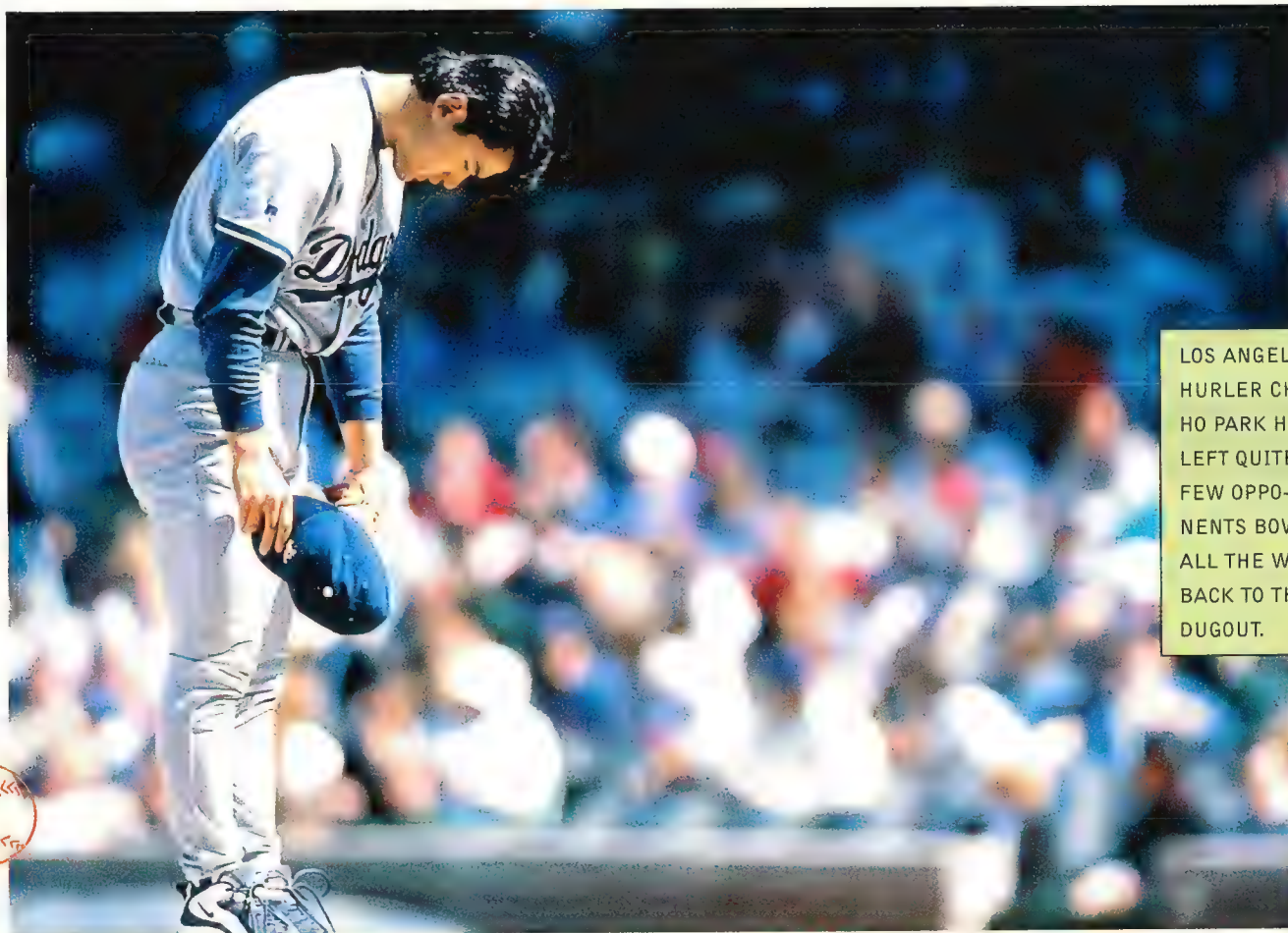
Latin America has always been a reliable area for Major League players and continues to be a prime producer of talent. However, the arrival of players from the Far East is a

more recent development. One reason is television. The league has become global, largely through the efforts of Major League Baseball International, which markets and televises the game around the world.

"I got to watch many games on TV and I got to see how great so many of the players were," says Hasegawa, who has taken English classes ever since joining the Angels. "I played six years in the Japanese major leagues. But after watching the Major League games from here, I saw that the baseball here was the best. I wanted to try and play against the best."

Hasegawa is the product of a system that is much more

"TO BE PITCHING FOR THE DODGERS HERE
IN AMERICA WHILE ALSO BEING CHEERED
BY MY FANS FROM KOREA IS REALLY A
DREAM THAT HAS COME TRUE." — CHAN HO PARK



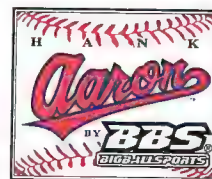
LOS ANGELES
HURLER CHAN
HO PARK HAS
LEFT QUITE A
FEW OPPO-
NENTS BOWING
ALL THE WAY
BACK TO THE
DUGOUT.

TOP: WACHTER/MLB PHOTOS, BOTTOM: STEPHEN GREEN/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

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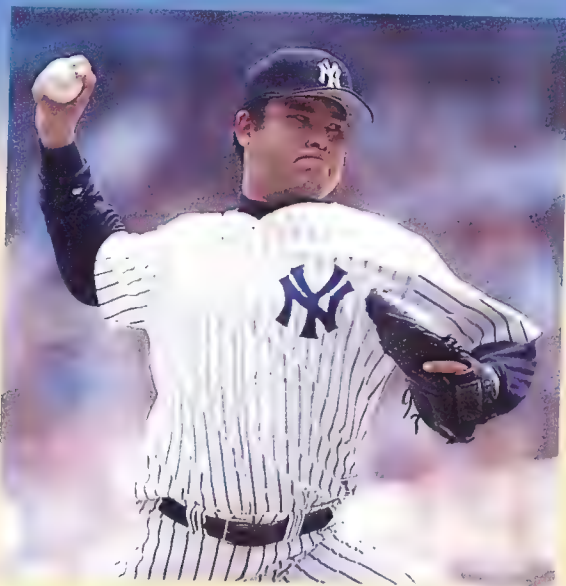
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restrictive than any in professional baseball.

"For one thing, in Japan there is not the Minor League system that there is in the U.S.," says Hasegawa. "There might be half as many minor league teams as there are here and you can be dropped after a short time to make room for someone else."

"We have high school and university baseball just like you have here in the U.S. The difference in Japan lies in the industrial leagues. Some players make as much money playing there as those in the Japanese major leagues. If you play for an industrial league team, you are also given a job with the company. If

you leave the team, you might not keep that job, so many players who might be good enough to play in the major leagues never leave the industrial leagues.

"And if you play in the Japanese professional leagues, you have to play there 10 years in order to become a free agent, unless a team gives you free agency. So it is extremely difficult to leave."

The baseball transition is not easy, especially for a pitcher like the slightly-built Hasegawa. He does not possess the overpowering velocity of an Irabu, or one devastating pitch such as Nomo's split-finger fastball. Instead, Hasegawa relies on pitching savvy and an array of changeups and breaking balls, a style with which Yoshii has also found success.

"The biggest difference between pitching here and in Japan is the greater number of strong hitters in the lineups," says Hasegawa. "In Japan, you have the three-, four- and five-hitters but maybe no one else can hit the ball a long way. But here, you make a mistake

WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED, MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HOPES THAT THE PROCESS OF SIGNING ASIAN PLAYERS WILL BE SIMPLIFIED. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE IMPORT BUSINESS WILL LIKELY BOOM.

with most hitters and it's not just a double, it's a home run. You must be careful with every hitter."

The transition to the Majors, however, proved a relatively smooth one on the field for Hasegawa. Not only has he adjusted to the tougher American lineups, but to working as a reliever as well.

"I was always a starting pitcher in Japan and I needed to learn how to warm up as a reliever and be ready to pitch every day," he says. "The good thing is that, in Japan, pitchers throw far more than they do over here. So my arm was used to working every day."

Meanwhile, in the Bronx, Irabu's evolution into a pitching sensation this season did not surprise many Yankees, despite his well-documented struggles both on and off the field in 1997.

"The thing that I think a lot of us tended to forget was that the guy never had any Spring Training before last season," says Yankees manager Joe Torre. "He got into pitching shape in a hurry."

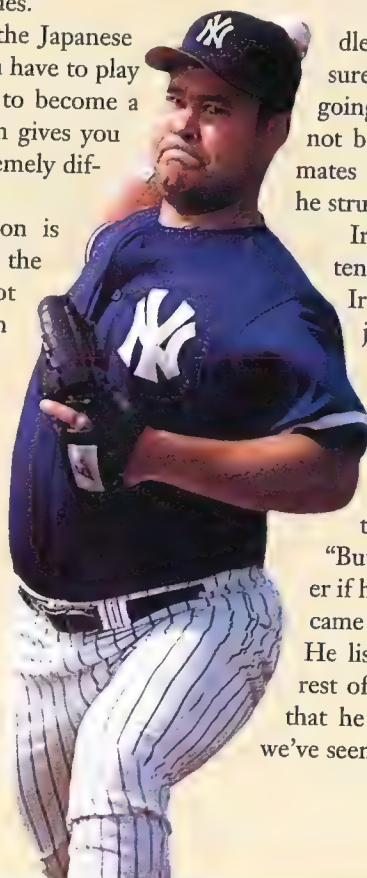
"You take all the things he had to try and handle—living a new country, pitching under the pressure he was under, the uncertainty of where he was going to end up, not having had any Spring Training, not being in the best shape, not knowing his teammates and the surroundings—and it's no surprise that he struggled so much in 1997."

Irabu's teammate, David Cone, always saw the potential of the Japanese right-hander, even when Irabu was at his worst. "I said from the first day he joined us that it might be a year or more before we see the real guy," says Cone.

"There were times last year when he did things that none of us liked. And he had a lot of trouble coping with media from both New York and Japan. Plus, he wasn't close to being the pitcher we had heard about."

"But I saw in him the ability to be a big-time pitcher if he could ever get settled down. To his credit, he came to Spring Training this year a different person. He listened, he didn't keep himself apart from the rest of us, he blended in with the team and beyond that he worked really hard to get into shape. Now we've seen the results of all that work so far this season."

FERTILE
GROUND



START SPREADING THE NEWS: IRABU'S HOT START THIS SEASON HAS MADE LAST YEAR'S ROCKY TRIP A DISTANT MEMORY.

TOP: DRAGON/MLB PHOTOS; BOTTOM: DIPACE/MLB PHOTOS

Yankees pitching coach Mel Stottlemyre believes that Irabu is at just the beginning of a solid Major League career. "He's been winning this season without throwing 95 miles per hour which he's capable of doing," says Stottlemyre. "He also is just developing his overall feel for pitching and his consistent pitching mechanics, and he's just learning the league."

Irabu's development not only makes the Yankees' frantic pursuit of him all the more justified, but also re-emphasizes how quality pitchers from the Far East are becoming a valuable commodity in the Major Leagues.

Because of Japan's 10-year rule, however, many baseball people believe Korea is likely to become a more fertile territory for future Major Leaguers. Though Korean baseball

officials want to retain many of their top players, they are expected to negotiate an agreement with the league that will be less restrictive than Japan's system.

The success of the 24-year old Park has made him a national hero and helped trigger the recent influx of top young Korean pitchers into America, including 20-year-old Mets prospect Jae Weong Seo and Boston's Sun-Woo Kim, 22, and Jin Ho Cho, 22. In addition, several teams have tried to bid for the services of 26-year-old Sang Lee.

Park's dream of playing in America was born on a trip to Los Angeles with his Korean high school national team. "We came here to play a tournament and we were taken to see Dodger Stadium," says Park. "When I saw the ballpark,

YOSHII'S FIRST SEASON WITH THE METS, AFTER 13 BIG LEAGUE YEARS IN JAPAN, HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR.

FIRST OF ALL

When you think about Japanese hurlers who have broken into the Majors, names like Nomo, Irabu and Murakami immediately come to mind. They've blazed a...wait a minute! Mura who? Oh, you don't know about Masanori Murakami? Sorry. Perhaps that's because he played baseball in the U.S. before the other two were born, and decades before most clubs were feverishly scouting Japanese players hoping to land the next Hideo or Hideki.

Thirty-four years ago, Murakami became the first Japanese-born player in Major League Baseball history when San Francisco assigned the 19-year-old lefty reliever from Otsuki to its California League team in Fresno. After dominating the league with excellent control and a nasty curve ball en route to Rookie of the Year honors, the man nicknamed Mashi got the call up to the Giants in time for their pennant run. He made his historic debut on Sept. 1 against the New York Mets, then pitched in eight other games in '64, allowing just eight hits in 15 innings and posting a 1.80 ERA.

Murakami returned to the Giants in 1965, despite getting entangled in a rights dispute between San Francisco and his

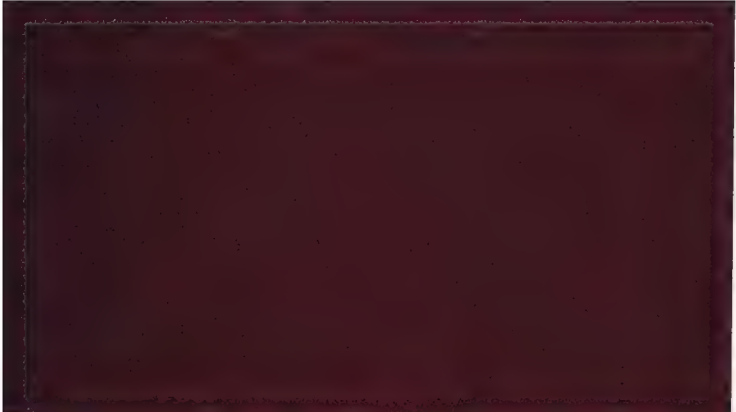
Japanese club, the Nankai Hawks, that caused him to miss the first three weeks of the season. Soon, however, he was playing alongside future Hall of Famers like Willie Mays and Juan Marichal, and finished the year with a 4-1 record and eight saves in 45 appearances. "It was a very exciting season," he told Cooperstown's *Freeman's Journal* earlier this year.

Murakami returned to Japan after the '65 season and pitched for the next 17 years, compiling a 103-82 career record. In 1983, the "retired" hurler was invited to the Giants' Spring Training tryouts. Alas, the 38-year-old just missed making the roster but his legacy lives on at Cooperstown where Murakami recently donated equipment from his pioneering days with the Giants.

Year	Club	G	W	L	IP	H	BB	SO	Sv.	ERA
1964	Fresno, Ca.	49	11	7	106	64	34	159	0	1.78
1964	San Francisco	9	1	0	15	8	1	15	1	1.80
1965	San Francisco	45	4	1	74	57	22	85	8	3.75



MURAKAMI, WHO REACHED THE SHOW MORE THAN 30 YEARS BEFORE NOMO AND IRABU HIT CENTER STAGE, HURLED FOR SAN FRANCISCO FOR TWO SEASONS.



Those who don't understand why you collect
never truly tasted anticipation.



We understand your passion.

FERTILE

GROUND

I could not believe how beautiful it was. Now, here I am, pitching for the Dodgers and I hope I'll be doing it for a long time."

From his first day with the Dodgers' organization, Park impressed the club with his great work ethic and positive attitude toward learning.

"Chan would take to heart everything I told him and I don't think he ever had to be told to do something twice," recalls Dave Wallace, who was the Dodgers pitching coach when Park broke in with LA, and is now a top front-office aide with the Mets.

"The only things that didn't go completely smooth were due to the language. I remembered one day in Chan Ho's first spring with us when I noticed he was upset and I told him that he had to work on his emotions. The next morning, I saw him near the batting cage shadow pitching. He thought I had said to work on his motion.

"But those were small problems. He worked hard from day one and the results have become obvious."

Park has taken adapting to the U.S. seriously.

NOMO, NOW A NEW YORK MET (TOP), STORMED INTO THE BIGS IN 1995, EARNING NL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONORS WITH LA (RIGHT).

"I have taken English classes ever since I joined the Dodgers," says Park. "But no matter how well I speak, I am, of course, still very close to Korea. What amazes me is how excited the fans from Korea are over me pitching here. Everywhere I pitch, I see Korean flags in the stands. To be able to pitch for my fans is the most rewarding thing about this experience. To be pitching for the

Dodgers while also being cheered by my fans from Korea is really a dream that has come true."

It's also a dream come true at the box office. When Park starts at home, the Dodgers usually average at least 7,500 more fans. And according to Tim Brosnan, chief operating officer of MLB International, Park has generated huge interest in Major League Baseball back in Korea.

"Prior to the season, we negotiated a deal to televise all of Park's games back home to Korea," says Brosnan. "The response has been remarkable. From everything we've been told, thousands of people are up in the middle of the

"THE EXPOSURE, BOTH IN JAPAN WHERE INTEREST IS GREAT BECAUSE OF NOMO AND IRABU, AND IN KOREA [BECAUSE OF PARK], CAN'T HELP BUT PROMOTE GREATER GROWTH IN INTEREST OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL." — TIM BROSAN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF MLB INTERNATIONAL



night watching his games live on television.

"At the same time, we are also including a game of the week as well as the All-Star Game, playoffs and World Series. The exposure, both in Japan where interest is great because of Nomo and Irabu, and in Korea, can't help but promote greater growth in interest of Major League Baseball.

"It's a fact of life in sports that people like to root for their own. You see that in the Olympics and World Cup soccer and you're seeing it now in Major League Baseball. The Japanese fans roots for a Nomo or Yoshii, the Korean fan roots for Park. In the process, it gives our product a great boost in terms of marketing and overall interest."

The growing influence of foreign players in the Majors has made fans of citizens from countries around the globe, so much so that a World Cup type of tournament for baseball

may eventually take place. The idea is supported by both the Major League Baseball Players Association and MLB officials.

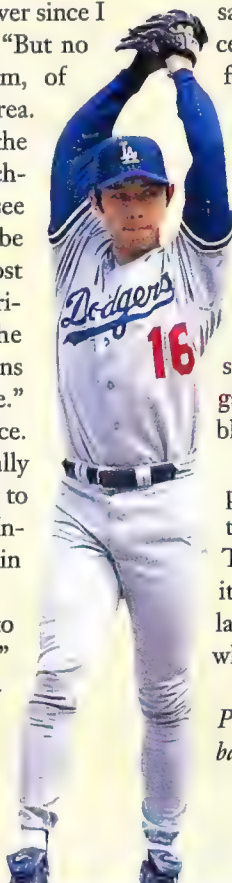
"The idea of a world cup-type of thing is something that can be a significant turning point in the relationship between the Players Association and Major League Baseball," says Paul Beeston, president and chief operating officer of MLB. "We're just beginning to scratch the surface really in the marketing of our game world-wide. And a true world competition in which the best players from each nation compete is something that I believe will happen within the next few years."

Beeston acknowledges that many of the players are interested in such an event, which is bound to increase world-wide interest in the game and, in turn, increase player exposure.

"We are truly a global game and it is a major reason why I feel so strongly about the great recovery our game is in the process of experiencing after the troubles of a few years ago.

"Our fans are discovering that all the great baseball players don't come from the United States. The interest in a world tournament would be tremendous. The details might take a while but, when it happens, it will be a great event for baseball fans. And it will largely be due to the great growth in foreign players who are succeeding in the Majors." ♦

Peter Pascarelli is director of information for ESPN baseball productions and a contributor to ESPN Magazine.



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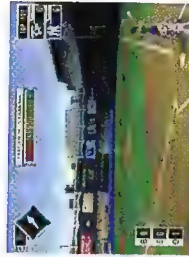
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Larry Walker
1997 National League MVP



FROM RISING STAR TO SUNSHINE BOY

For any rookie breaking into the Major Leagues, life in the fast lane can be a huge adjustment both on and off the field. Imagine the adjustments Japan's Shigetoshi Hasegawa had to make when he arrived at the Anaheim Angels Spring Training camp in February of 1997.

Hasegawa spoke little English, needed to experience all the social and cultural differences between living in Japan and the United States and also had to concentrate on earning a job in the Majors without the security of a contract in Japan to fall back upon.

"The club was very good about helping me get settled," recalls Hasegawa. "But in the beginning there were many things I needed to learn.

"For example, in Japan we have no system of checks. The Angels had me open a bank account and my pay was put in the bank and they gave me these checks. I didn't know what to do with them for a while. It took me a long time to learn how to write checks for things like the electric and gas bills.

"Things like food and living conditions were much easier. There is a large Japanese community in Southern California so I really never had to worry about where to go to find familiar food or to get help from someone who spoke Japanese. Plus, my family has moved here to be with me. We have all worked to learn English and have become very comfortable living here."

Hasegawa's baseball lessons were also difficult when he first arrived in the U.S.

"We would have drills in Spring Training and I had trouble understanding everything that was being explained. There are many drills and plays that are different depending on what team you play for and that was pretty tough for me at first."

Laughing, Hasegawa recalls how bullpen mates Mike

James and Troy Percival played a practical joke on him during that first Spring Training.

"We were working on covering bunts in spring training. Mike and Troy took me aside and told me that when it was my turn to field, I should yell 'My ball,' but they added another word in between that I wasn't supposed to say. So when (Angels manager) Terry Collins rolled a bunt for me and I yelled 'My (bleeping) ball,' the whole team started laughing.

"I was embarrassed for a second but I also felt good because I felt that the guys had accepted me. And ever since I went to the bullpen, guys like Mike and Troy have helped me feel comfortable."

For the Angels, the positive experience with Hasegawa has made them all the more interested in acquiring other Japanese players in the future.

"I don't think we could have been more fortunate than to have someone like Shigey," says Angels general manager Bill Bavasi. "The whole process of signing him was very above board and conducted smoothly largely because of Shigey and his agent Ed Kleven. Shigey's extremely popular with his

teammates, fits in well with the club and is doing a nice job in his role. It's remarkable how well he has adapted to living in California.

"Like everyone else, we have scouts concentrating on the Far East and hope to bring over other players who can make a positive impact. We've been spoiled by having a great guy like Shigey. Hopefully, we can continue to make that area of the world an important part of player development for years to come."



THE AFFABLE HASEGAWA HAS RARELY STOPPED SMILING SINCE CATCHING ON WITH ANAHEIM AT THE START OF THE '97 SEASON.



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**RUTH, MAYS, GWYNN
AND GRIFFEY**

HAVE EARNED THEIR

STARS

ON BASEBALL'S

WALK OF FAME.

**BUT THE LIKES OF
COSTNER, GRISHAM, HANKS**

AND CRYSTAL

GIVE NEW MEANING TO THE TERM

FIELD OF DREAMS

**ALL-STAR
CAST**

BY BEN GREENMAN ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRANCISCO CACERES

Champion
FOOTING MATTERS BUT THE GAME

step one to becoming a champion

THE WONDERFUL THING about dreams is that you can possess them for a lifetime, even after reality has taken you down a different course.

Talk to a celebrity from the entertainment industry or political arena and he or she is apt to reveal a dream keenly similar to the one you've played a million times over. You know the one, where you're a Major League star trotting around the bases after clobbering a World Series-winning grand slam in Game 7. These folks are just as likely to admit, despite their successes in other professions, that The Dream still remains, as fresh and as improbable as ever.

Of course, now there exists a celebrity circuit which allows such flights of fancy to come to fruition...sort of. Flip through your local sports page and you'll eventually find an announcement of a charity baseball or softball game, featuring local luminaries and maybe even one or two top-drawer stars. That doesn't mean, however, that all celebrities are equally good at firing in fastballs, laying down bunts and spearing line drives. Hundreds try their hand at the game, but only a few succeed.

Here, then, are our selections for the All-Stars of the Stars, handpicked with one eye on actual diamond achievement and the other on the magnitude of their celebrity. Composed mostly of actors, the group also includes a Grammy-winning singer, a best-selling novelist, a top CEO who moonlights as a professional athlete, and even a former U.S. President. We've also named a manager, some reserves, and provided some indication of the celebs who might pack the stands for this team's first game. Play ball!

FIRST BALLGAME SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BILLY CRYSTAL EVER ATTENDED WAS AT YANKEE STADIUM, WHERE HE SAT IN JAZZ GREAT LOUIS ARMSTRONG'S SEATS AND WATCHED MICKEY MANTLE TAKE A FASTBALL DEEP.

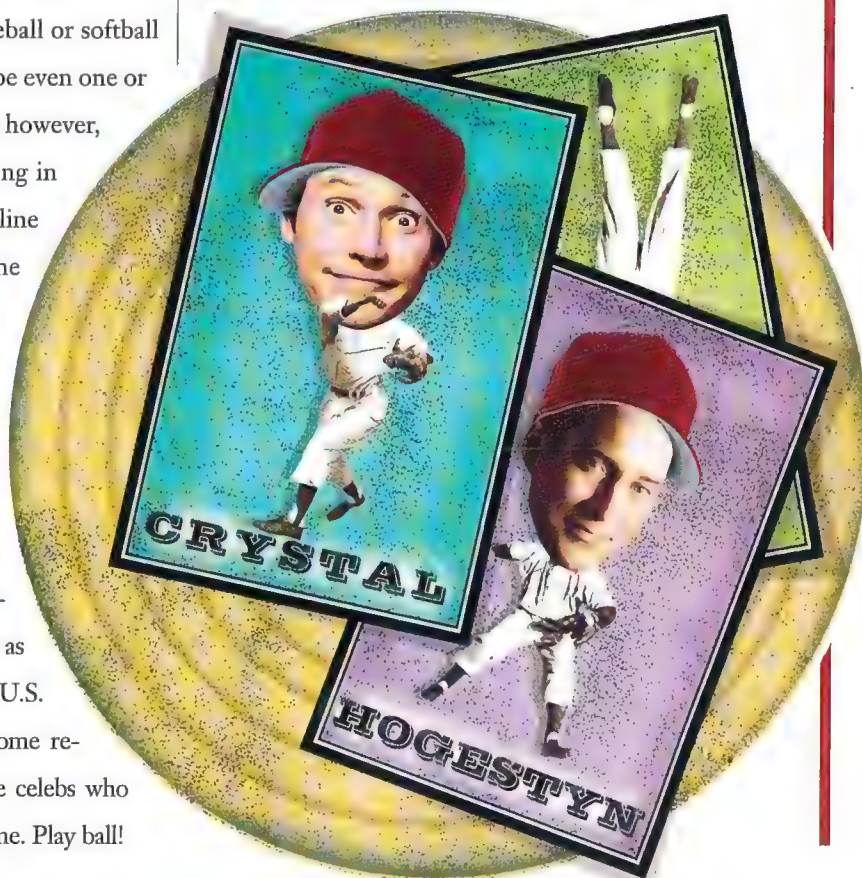
THE STARTERS

BUSH-1b

The game of choice for most U.S. Presidents is football. Gerald Ford was famous for backing his beloved University of Michigan Wolverines. Ronald Reagan played Notre Dame star George Gipp in the 1940 film *Knute Rockne, All American*. But the President with the most impressive sports background prefers the diamond over the gridiron. That President, of course, is George Bush, who was a star first baseman for Ethan Allen's stellar Yale University squads in the late

1940s. Dependable at first and the possessor of a sharp bat, Bush helped lead his Ivy League team to the finals of the inaugural College World Series in 1947, and took the Elis back the following year as their team captain. That year, Bush had the opportunity to meet one of the game's great figures when he accepted Babe Ruth's autograph from the aging, ailing home run king in a 1948 ceremony at Yale field. After college, law and politics beckoned Bush away from the ballfield, but he has often

ALL-STARCAST





spoken of his love for the game, and his belief that sports represents one of the most important arenas of true democracy. "Sports is a great equalizer," he explained in a 1975 interview in *Time* magazine. "If you know people and can relax with them, then maybe you can head off a crisis that you couldn't head off with people you'd only met at a reception." Apparently, Bush's enthusiasm for America's pastime is genetic—his son, Neil, is a principal owner of the Texas Rangers.

RUSSELL-2b

Kurt Russell was on the silver screen before he was out of elementary school, landing a part in the Elvis Presley film *It Happened at the World's Fair* and then signing as a contract player with Disney studios. But like his father, Bing, who portrayed a deputy sheriff on *Bonanza* and also played baseball, Kurt's love was divided between the studio and the stadium. When his child acting career petered out in the early '70s, Russell played second base for the California Angels Double-A club in the Northwest League. Despite possessing good offensive skills and a legitimate shot at the Majors, a torn shoulder muscle forced him into retirement in 1973. Since then, Russell has appeared in uniform only rarely. While he hasn't yet nabbed a starring role in a baseball-themed film, he came close. In the '80s, a

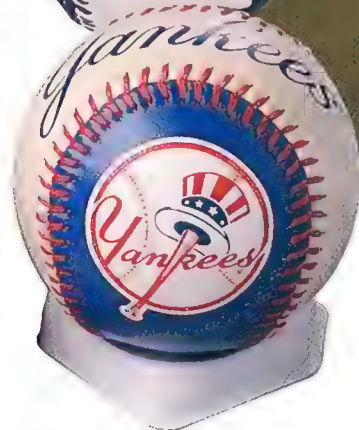
Minor League ballplayer and aspiring screenwriter named Ron Shelton gave Russell a copy of a baseball-themed script. Entitled "Player to be Named Later," it detailed the misadventures of a veteran Minor League catcher beginning to surrender his dreams of playing in the big leagues. Russell, however, was passed over in favor of Kevin Costner, who went on to make the film—now titled *Bull Durham*—one of the surprise hits of 1988, and one of the most beloved baseball films of all time. Russell, who felt stung at first, considering that the script was tailored for him and based in part upon his own experiences, has since made peace with the project, which he has commended as a realistic look at life as a Minor Leaguer.

CRYSTAL-ss

On film, funnyman Billy Crystal has recently become a huge sports booster, featuring professional basketball players in his last two films, *Forget Paris* and *My Giant*. But baseball was the sport that first entranced the star, who grew up in New York as the son of a prominent jazz record producer. In May 1956, the first ballgame seven-year old Crystal ever attended was at Yankee Stadium where, accompanied by his father, he sat in jazz great Louis Armstrong's seats and watched Mickey Mantle take a fastball deep. The experience proved so memorable that he later recalled it in his hit movie *City Slickers*. From then on, Crystal was hooked on the game. He played baseball in high school, then attended Marshall

University in West Virginia on a baseball scholarship with hopes of eventually becoming a Major League shortstop. When the program was dropped in Crystal's sophomore year, he returned to New York, shelved his big league aspirations, and enrolled at New York University. Since then, he has remained a highly visible booster of Major League Baseball, and contributed commentary to the 1994 Ken Burns PBS documentary on the sport. In addition, Crystal is a part-owner of the National League's most recent expansion franchise, the Arizona Diamondbacks.

ALL-STAR CAST LINEUP			
1	BUSH	3	
2	RUSSELL	4	
3	CRYSTAL	6	
4	HOGESTYN	5	
5	COSTNER	2	
6	JORDAN	7	
7	GRISHAM	8	
8	VLHL	9	
9	YEARWOOD	1	
RESERVES			
SILVERMAN			
WEATHERS			
SELLECK			
CASTRO			
TOM HANKS, MANAGER			



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**HOGESTYN-3b**

Drake Hogestyn, best-known for portraying John Black on the ABC-TV soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, was born Douglas Drake Hogestyn in 1953 in Fort Wayne, Ind. While other Hoosiers were dreaming of hoops, he had his heart set on baseball, and in the early '70s, the University of South Florida in Tampa awarded him a baseball scholarship on the strength of his high school

performance. As a member of the USF Bulls, Hogestyn played the hot corner. Soon after graduating with a bachelor's degree in pre-dentistry, he was drafted by the New York Yankees, where he excelled as a third baseman in the club's farm system until suffering an injury in 1978. Hogestyn eventually joined the cast of *Days of Our Lives* in 1986, but hasn't entirely separated himself from his baseball past—a wall in his ABC dressing room features a gigantic portrait of Babe Ruth.

COSTNER-c

Jackie Robinson took his own historic biography to the silver screen in the 1950 film *The Jackie Robinson Story*. Tony Perkins was riveting as anxiety-ridden Red Sox outfielder Jimmy Piersall in the 1957 melodrama *Fear Strikes Out*. And Robert Redford brought a mythic gravity to his portrayal of the heroic slugger Roy Hobbs in *The Natural*. But of all the American actors who have starred in baseball films, none are as prominent as Kevin Costner. Over a 12-month span in the late '80s, he starred in two classic diamond tales. Phil Alden Robinson's *Field of Dreams* (1989), a sentimental, redemptive fantasy that summoned the ghosts of the 1919 Chicago White Sox, was a bigger hit at the box office, but it was Ron Shelton's *Bull Durham*, that gave Costner his defining role. As Crash Davis—a journeyman catcher wrestling with his own athletic mediocrity and the immaturity of his young, spirited batterymate (Tim Robbins as Ebby Calvin "Nuke" La Loosh)—Costner illustrated that baseball is a game of character, subtlety and philosophy. Next year, he will return to the big-screen diamond in *For The Love Of The Game*, a baseball comedy.

Swinging for A Good Cause

Russ Gill has been responsible for more hits than anyone else in the entertainment business. But Gill isn't a record producer. He isn't a movie exec. He's the founder and manager of the Hollywood AllStars, a team of actors and musicians who tour the country playing serious, competitive softball in pro baseball parks.



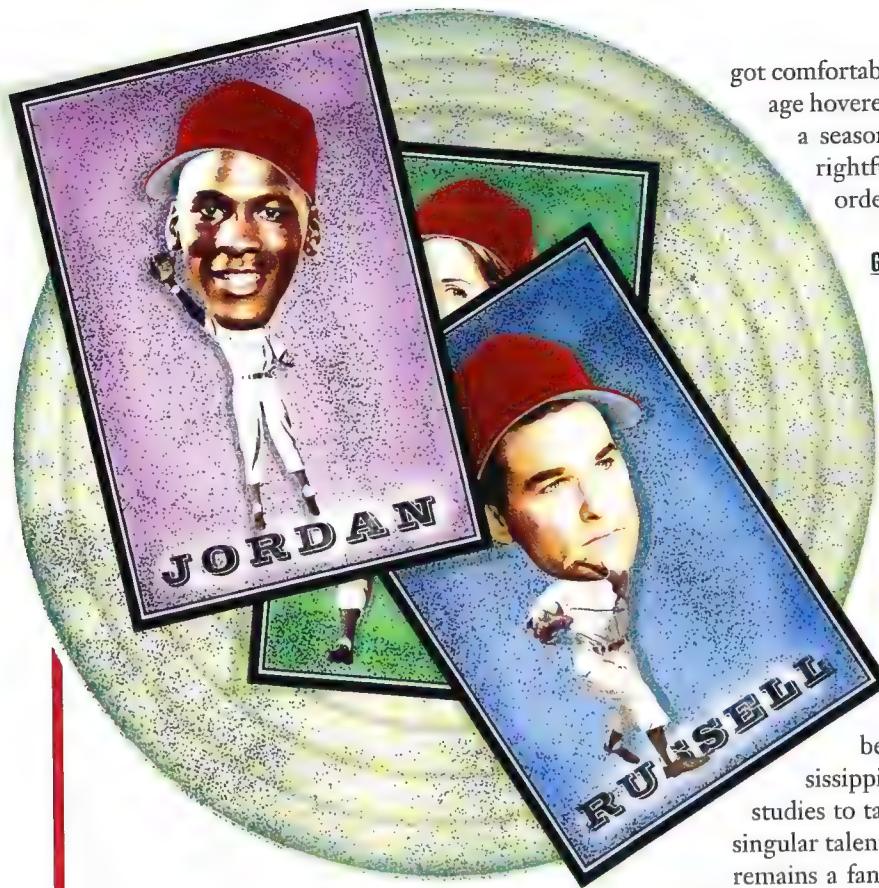
"There are lots of celebrities who do this, who play and love to play," says Gill, who held various jobs in the Cleveland Indians organization before starting the AllStars in 1983. "This team gives them a chance to live out their dream, and to play hard."

Over the years, the AllStars have included dozens of

big-name celebrities, including Mark Harmon, Michael Keaton, Matthew Broderick, Carl Weathers, Tony Danza, Jonathan Silverman, Noah Wyle and Tom Hanks.



Left: Jonathan Silverman prepares to swing in a charity softball game to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas. Top: Garrison Hearst, Keena Turner and a group of San Francisco 49ers challenged (l-r) Kevin Eubanks; Judd Nelson, Dennis Haskins, Dennis Haysbert, Dana Ashbrook, Mario Lopez, Danny Ganz, Silverman, MeatLoaf and Robert Hegyes to help raise money for the cause.



JORDAN—of

When Michael Jordan rocked the sports world by retiring from the NBA in October 1993 to pursue a baseball career, he was only 30 years old. Still, the perennial All-Star and idol to millions of fans around the world already had secured his place as one of the greatest players in hoops history, having led the Chicago Bulls to three consecutive NBA titles while capturing seven individual scoring crowns for good measure. But after a tumultuous few years that included gambling allegations and the tragic murder of his father, Jordan seemed to have lost his motivation to step onto the court. He didn't stay away from sports, though. Within months, he announced his intention to return to his first love, baseball, and went to play outfield for the Class A Birmingham Barons, an affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. As an ambassador for the sport of baseball, Jordan's impact was immediate and conspicuous—thanks to his presence in the game's smaller cities, Minor League attendance shot up more than 40 percent. As a player, MJ was somewhat less impressive—he never

got comfortable in the batter's box, and his batting average hovered around the dubious Mendoza line. After a season in the Minors, Jordan returned to his rightful kingdom—the court—thus restoring order to the world of sport.

GRISHAM—of

Before he was a bestselling novelist, John Grisham was a lawyer. And prior to his years as a legal eagle, he was an aspiring baseball star. A Mississippi native, Grisham played baseball throughout high school, and tried to carry his dream into college when he entered Northwest Mississippi Junior College in 1973. After a year, he felt ready to take his baseball career to the next level, and he transferred to Delta State University. Unfortunately, Grisham's coaches disagreed with his own assessment of his talent, and the hopeful star was benched. He eventually headed off to Mississippi State University, where he shifted his studies to tax law. Was the baseball world robbed of a singular talent? Unlikely. To this day, however, Grisham remains a fan who puts his money where his mouth is, and has helped to build a series of baseball diamonds for communities throughout the mid-South.

WUHL—of

In Ron Shelton's *Bull Durham*, Robert Wuhl played the easily flustered assistant manager of the Durham Bulls. When Shelton returned to baseball movies, with the 1994 biopic *Cobb*, Wuhl starred as Al Stump, the sportswriter handpicked to write the biography of the fearsome diamond legend Ty Cobb (played with appropriate menace by former Harvard football star Tommy Lee Jones). Wuhl, a staple at Los Angeles area charity games and a regular presence in the stands at Dodgers and Marlins games, has also starred in HBO's *Arli\$\$*, a satire that tracks the double-dealing career of a top sports agent.

AFTER A SEASON IN THE MINORS, MICHAEL JORDAN RETURNED TO HIS RIGHTFUL KINGDOM

◀ THE COURT ▶

THUS RESTORING ORDER TO THE WORLD OF SPORT.

YEARWOOD—p

Can female celebrities play with the men? Sure—as long as they're as devoted to the game as is Trisha Yearwood. The country music superstar grew up in Monticello, Ga., worshipping the Atlanta Braves. She followed the Braves closely during the early '70s, and remembers

watching Hank Aaron hammer his 715th home run to move past Babe Ruth on the all-time career roundtrippers list. But she is more than just a fan. "I played on my first softball team at the age of 9," says Yearwood, who sang the national anthem at the 1995 World Series in Atlanta. "We were called the Honeybees and I was the pitcher. I have been playing ever since. I usually play pitcher or first base, although recently in a game on the road, I tried my hand at catcher."

CRASH AS

DAVIS IN **BULL DURHAM**,
COSTNER
 ILLUSTRATED THAT
BASEBALL
 IS A GAME OF CHARACTER,
 SUBTLETY AND
PHILOSOPHY.

IN THE STANDS

For every star who plays, there are a dozen who don't, but who still closely follow the game. Deceased U.S. President Richard Nixon was a diehard Mets fan, as is actor Tim Robbins. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was a regular at Fenway Park when he first came to the United States. Television heartthrob David Duchovny has Yankee pinstripes on his brain. And there's a whole contingent of celebs devoted to the Dodgers—not the Los

THE RESERVES

Jonathan Silverman, the comedian and former star of the NBC sitcom *The Single Guy*, is a Dodgers fanatic and a regular at celebrity softball games.

Carl Weathers, playing the role of Apollo Creed, was the main nemesis of Sylvester Stallone's Rocky Balboa, but the former professional football player is also a diehard baseball fan and player.

Tom Selleck played basketball at the University of Southern California, but spent his youth dreaming of being a baseball star. He finally fulfilled his dream, albeit fictionally, with the 1992 comedy *Mr. Baseball*, which follows the career of a washed-up slugger riding out his career in Japan. Over the years, Selleck has even practiced with a few teams during Spring Training.

Cuban leader **Fidel Castro** was once a pitching prospect who earned a tryout with the Washington Senators. He didn't make the team, however, reportedly because he lacked heat and couldn't locate his curve.

THE MANAGER

Tom Hanks has portrayed a manager on the silver screen and has been the subject of a skit that involved classic baseball footage. After his career took off with the comedy hit *Big*, he appeared on "Saturday Night Live" to show fake outtakes from the film, many of which involved Hanks, playing a boy in a man's body, rounding third and barreling into the undersize, underage catcher. He has played in celebrity leagues in Los Angeles and, best of all, has already been a baseball manager. In Penny Marshall's *A League of Their Own*, he played a besotted ex-ballplayer dragged out of retirement and forced to manage an all-women's team.

Angeles Dodgers, but the Brooklyn Dodgers. Spike Lee's movies regularly feature tributes to the team. In *Girl 6*, Lee's character was a baseball memorabilia collector whose bedroom wall was decorated with a huge poster of the Brooklyn team. He is reportedly planning a remake of *The Jackie Robinson Story*, with Denzel Washington in the title role.

So the next you come upon a ballpark, keep your eyes open...you never know who might be at the plate swinging away or catching a fly ball or sitting in the stands. ♦

Ben Greenman is a writer living in Brooklyn, N.Y.

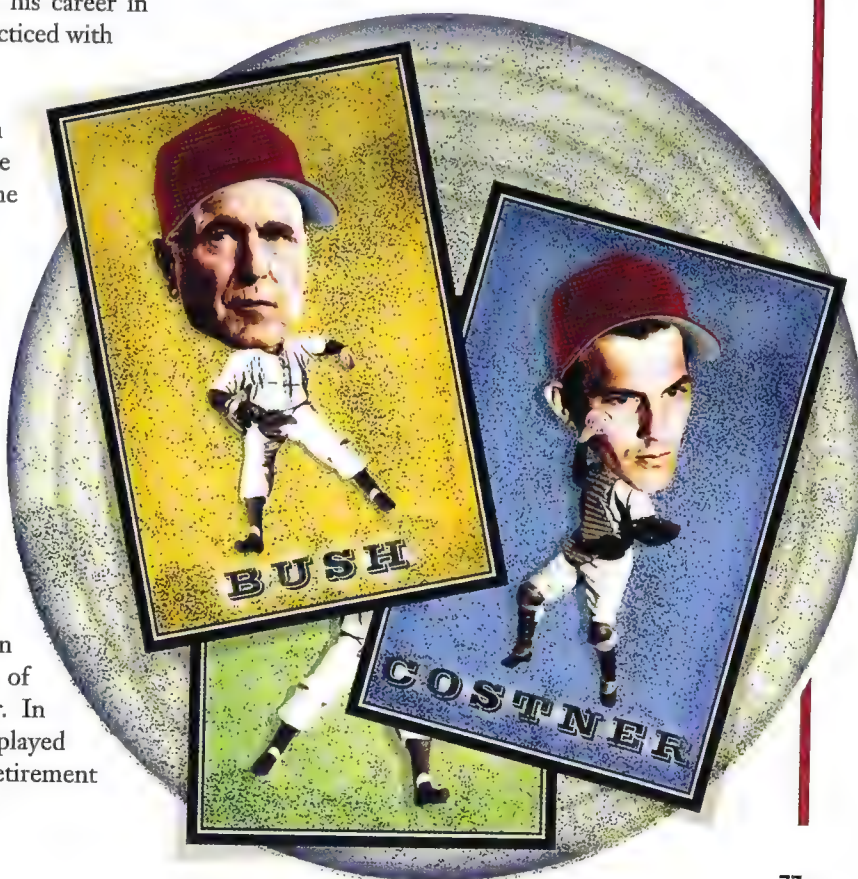
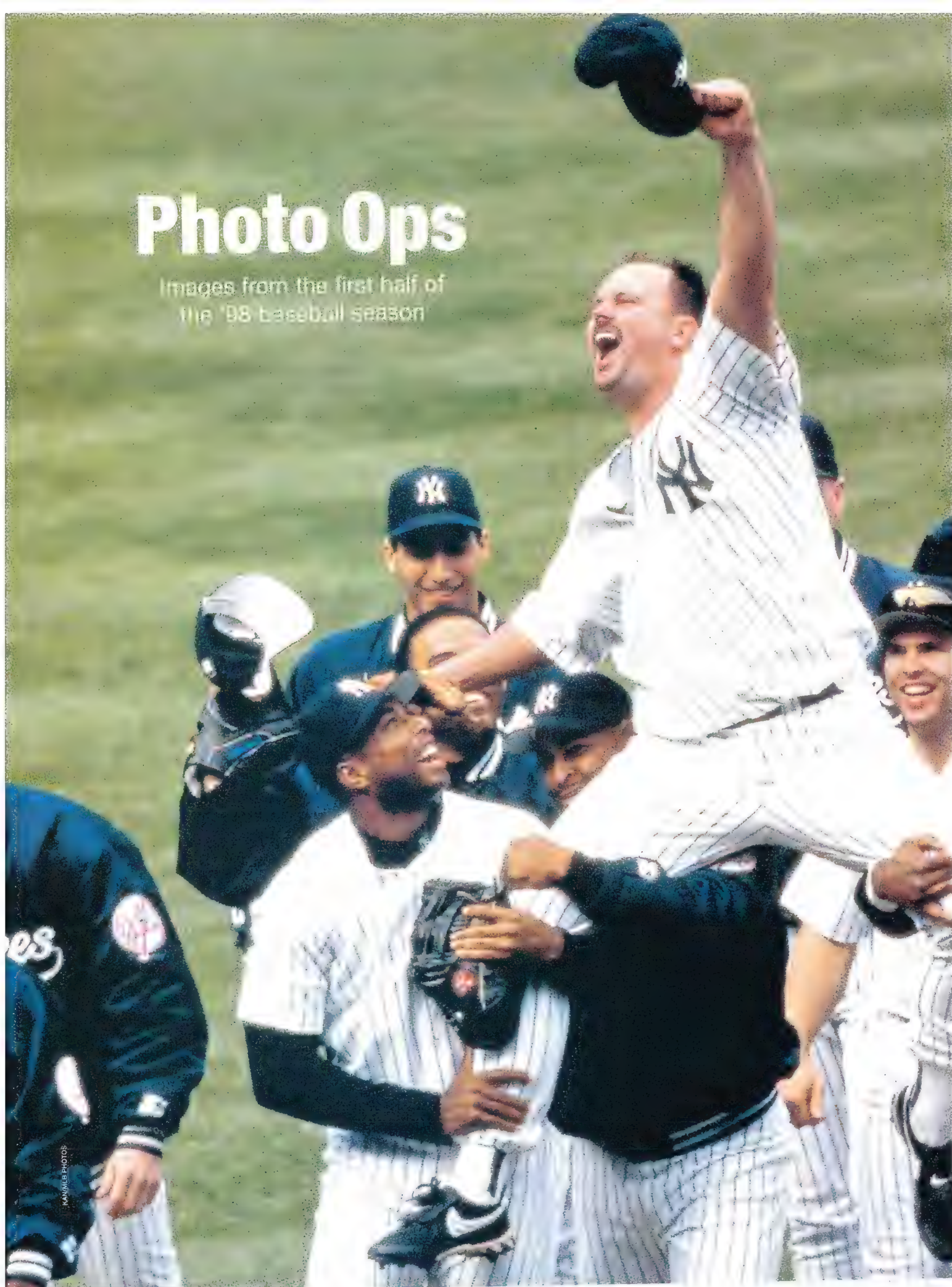


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Images from the first half of
the '98 baseball season





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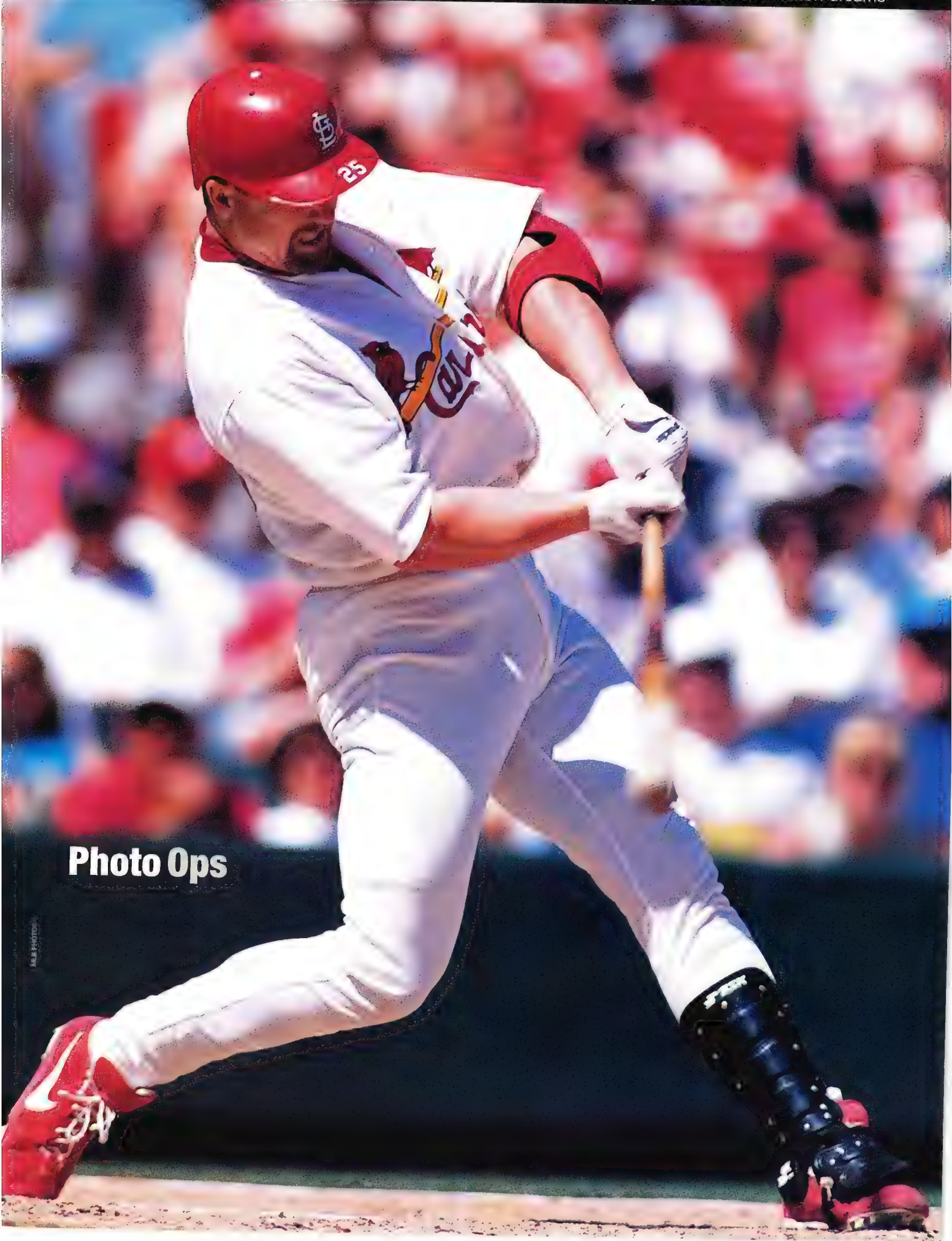
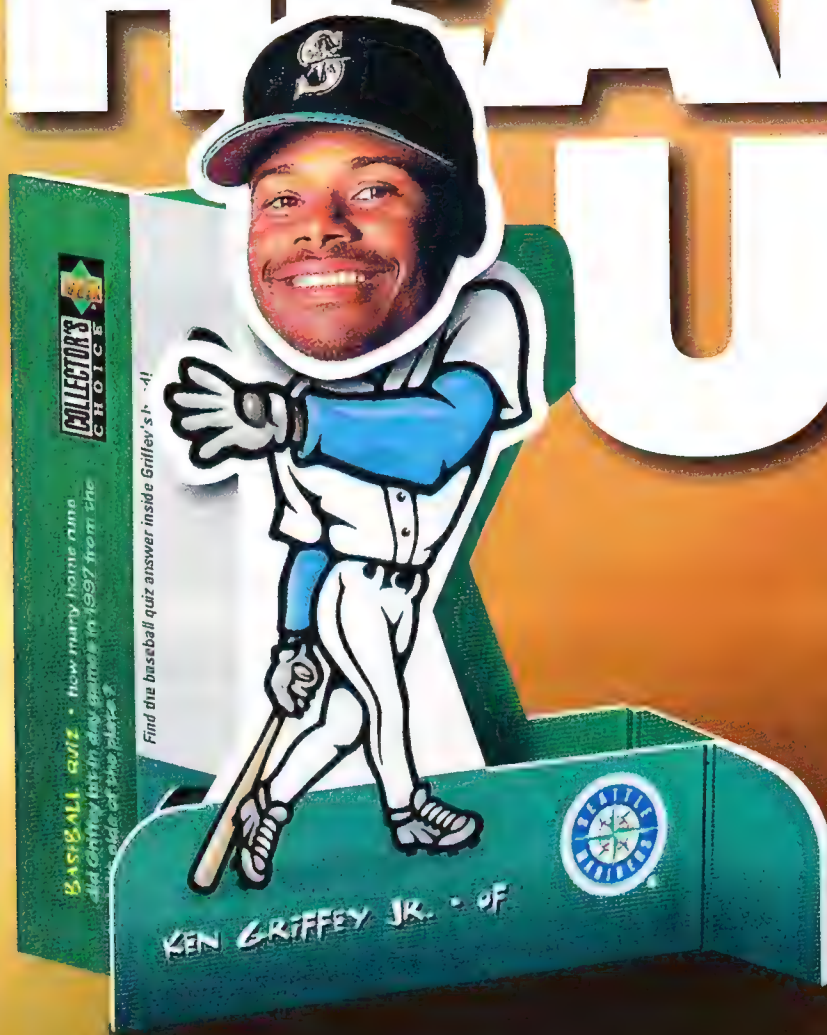


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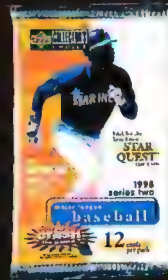
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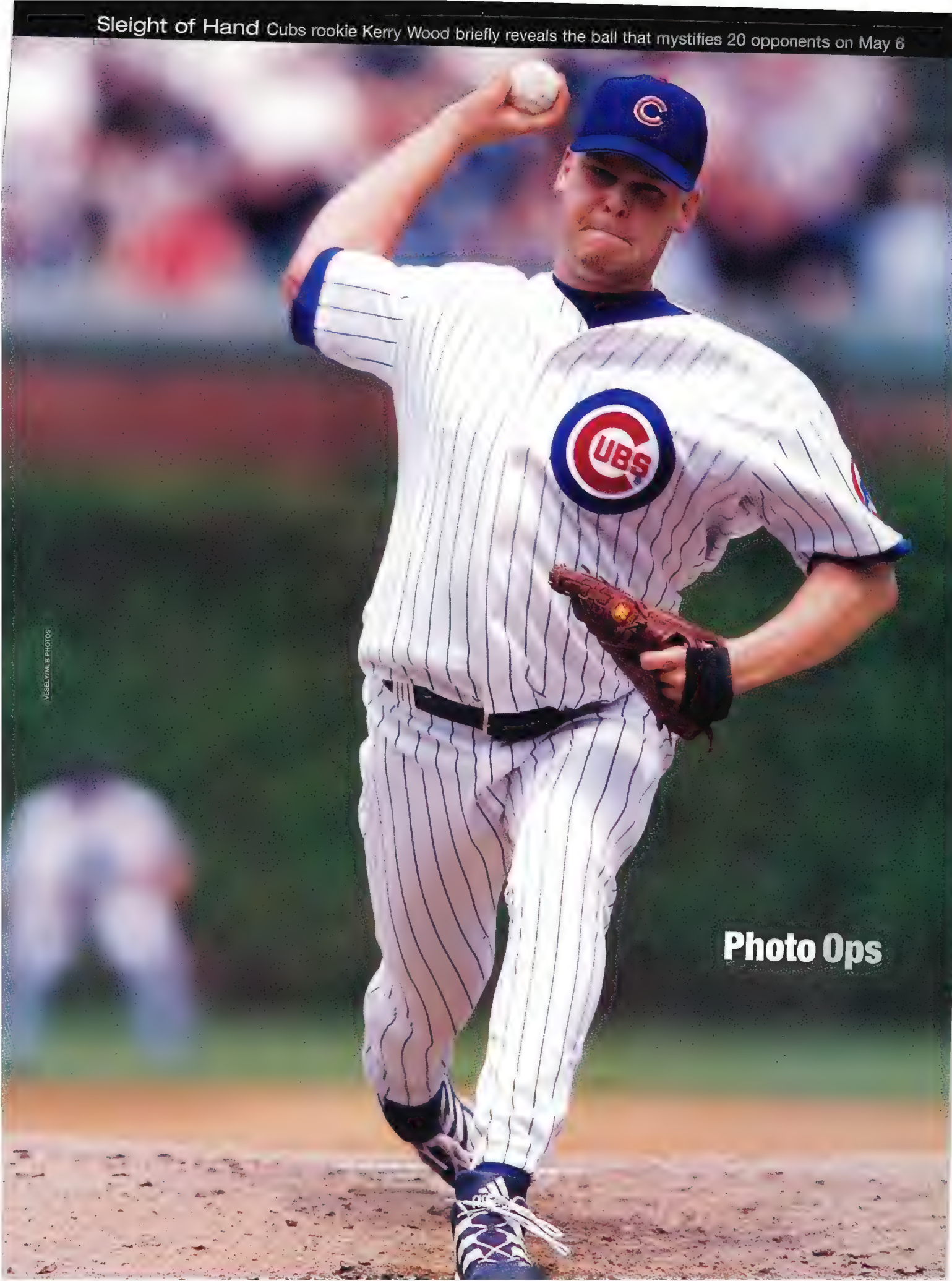


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Sleight of Hand Cubs rookie Kerry Wood briefly reveals the ball that mystifies 20 opponents on May 6

VEBEL/VALE PHOTOS

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Baywatch Giants perennial Gold-Glover Barry Bonds zeroes in on his latest gravity-stricken victim



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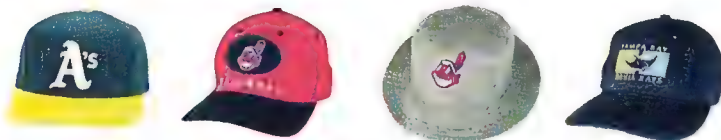
However, it is more than just sales. By offering opportunities for qualified minority companies, Major League Baseball can create further business opportunities to involve the minority community. As a member of the Reverend Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition for Fairness in Athletics, and as a supporter of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, I am personally committed to furthering business development inside professional sports. Although we have work to do, it's refreshing to know that Major League Baseball is also committed to furthering minority opportunities.

As we approach the next millenium it is important for all of us to recognize that our society must be an inclusive society. Major League Baseball recognized this fact 51 years ago when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. To truly take integration to the next level, we must focus upon the entire spectrum of opportunity including employment, but also encompassing the vast business to business opportunities as well. By building our business together we can create far-reaching commerce in the minority community thus improving our overall society. Toward that end, I will continue to diligently work to create a strong foundation and extended framework to build business opportunities for minority business in all professional sports. It's not only the right thing to do; it's good business.

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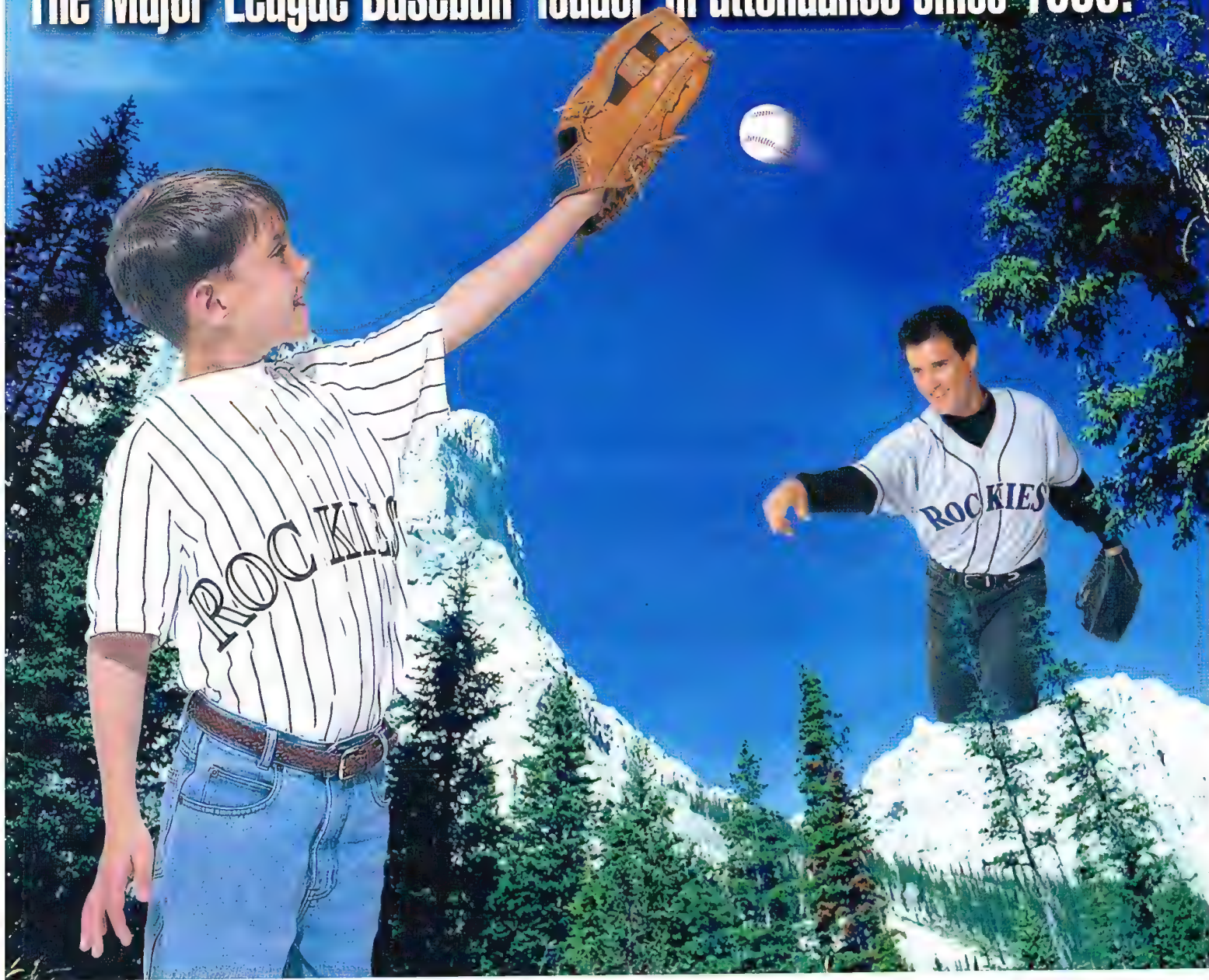
Lift Off Sweet-swinging Mariner Ken Griffey Jr. spends another inspired moment at the launching pad

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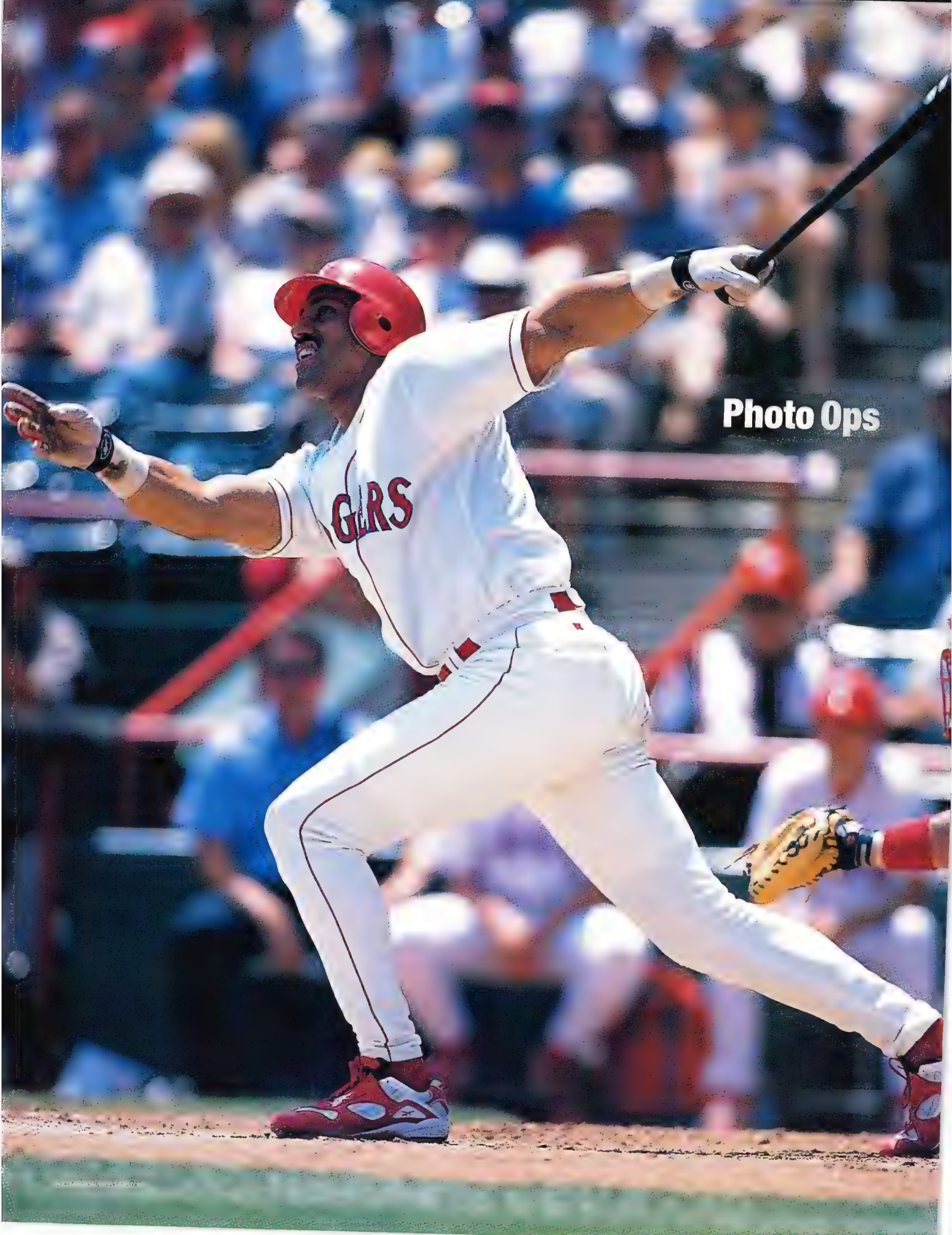
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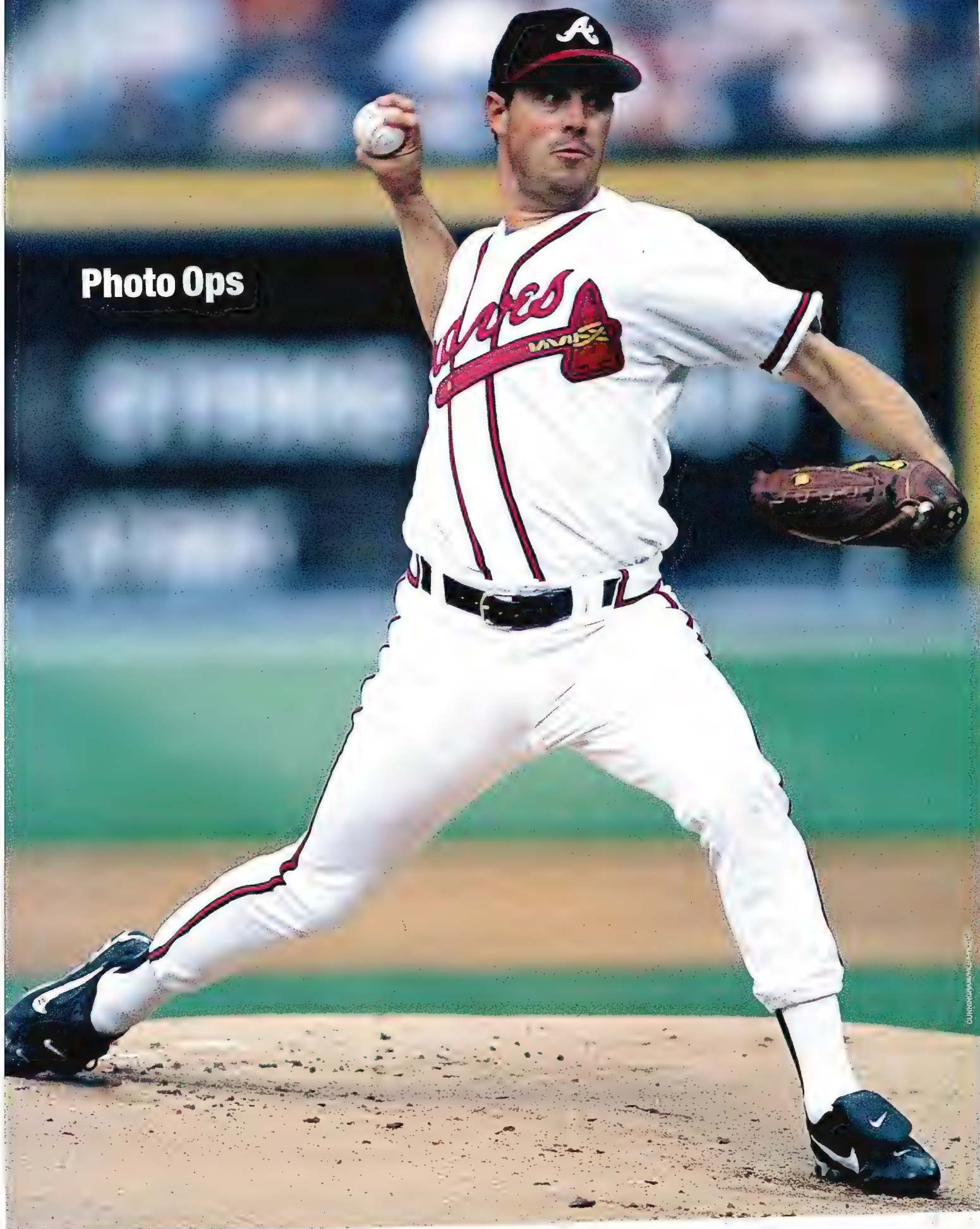
Hacking Away Ranger Juan Gonzalez adds another ribbie in his pursuit of Mr. Wilson's 68-year-old record

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Arms Control Braves kingpin and four-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux eyes his target

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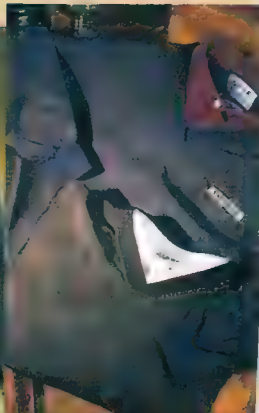
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while Phillies workhorse and 1997 Major League strikeout leader Curt Schilling prepares to fire

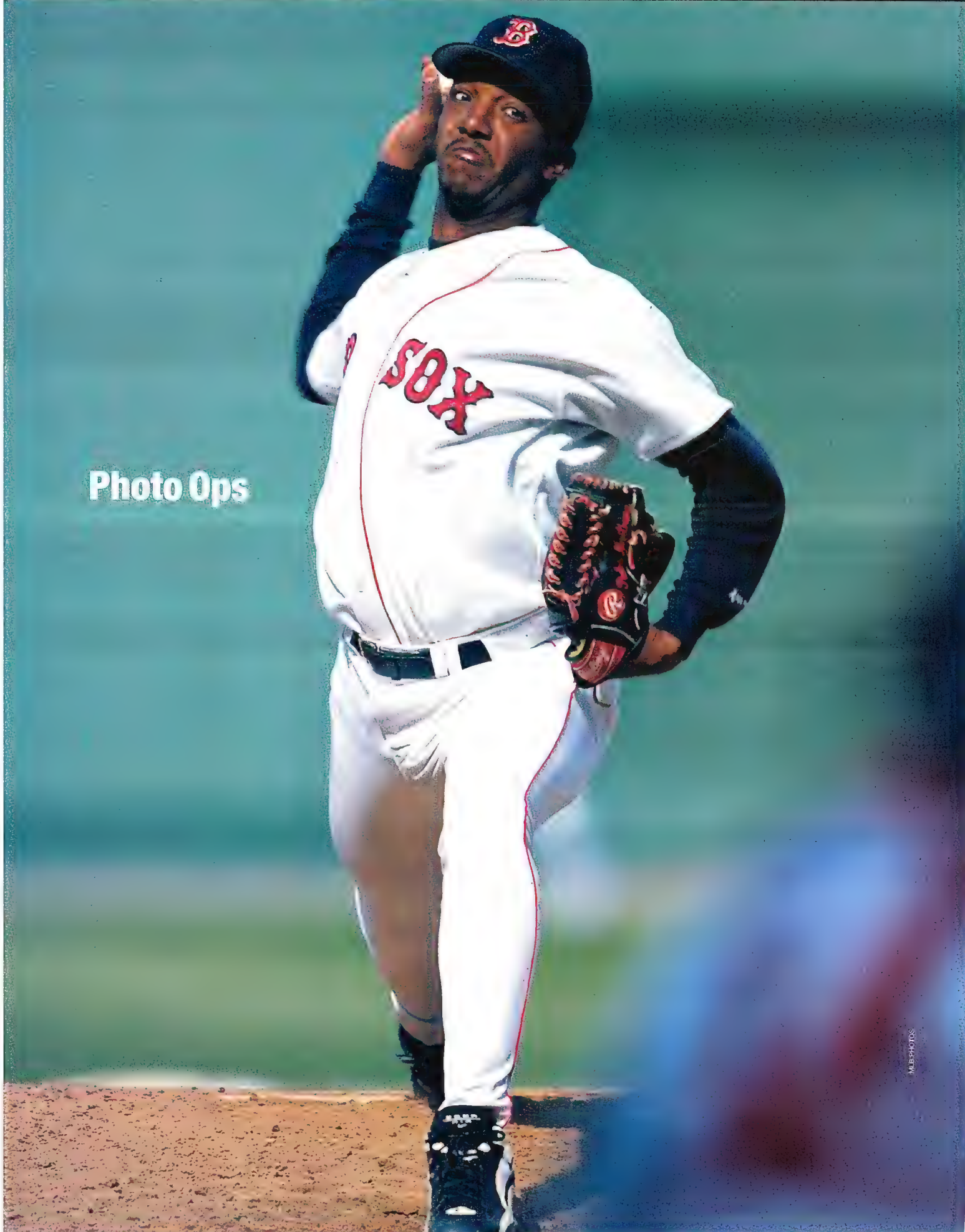


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Take This! Red Sox fireballer Pedro Martinez gives the American League a taste of his Cy Young talent

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How To SCORE

Different fans have different methods of keeping a scorecard, and many use their own notations. But here's a simple method:

First fill in the starting line-up. When the game begins, start in the column corresponding to the correct inning and go to the box next to the name of the hitter who is at the plate. If the hitter makes an out, write down how he was put out according to the legend below. If the hitter grounds out to shortstop, for example, write in "6-3," which shows that the shortstop threw him out at first base. The notation for a fly to left, for example, would be "F7."

If the batter gets a hit, pencil in the hit according to which base he reached. The corners of the box represent the bases, with the lower-right corner being first. If he singles, pencil in a "-" in the lower right. If he doubles, pencil in a "=" in the upper right, and so on. If he walks, pencil in "BB" in the lower right. As the runner advances, mark the appropriate symbol in the appropriate corner.

If a runner scores, put a circle at the bottom of the box, and inside the circle put the symbol of the play and/or the player that drove him in. For example, if the number five hitter drives in two runs with a single, mark his single in the bottom right of his box and mark a circle with the number "5" in it in the boxes of the runners who score.

At the end of each inning, total the hits and runs for that inning only. At the end of the game you'll be able to add the innings total to arrive at the game score.

SAMPLE SCORESHEET

Number Players

As Follows:

- 1 - Pitcher
- 2 - Catcher
- 3 - First Baseman
- 4 - Second Baseman
- 5 - Third Baseman
- 6 - Shortstop
- 7 - Left Fielder
- 8 - Center Fielder
- 9 - Right Fielder
- DH - Designated Hitter
- (Used exclusively in the American League)

Symbols For Plays:

- Single - —
- Double - ==
- Triple - ===
- Home Run - ===
- Sacrifice - SH
- Walk - BB
- Strikeout - K
- Balk - BK
- Foul Fly - F
- Fielders Choice - FC

- Hit By Pitch - HP
- Wild Pitch - WP
- Passed Ball - PB
- Stolen Base - SB
- Force Out - FO

- Double Play - DP
- Error - E
- Sacrifice Fly - SF

Additional Symbols:

- IBB - Intentional Walk
- X - Called out on strikes
- L - Line Drive
- B - Bunt
- U - Unassisted

		INNING 1		INNING 2	
Team		1	2		
Center Fielder	3 2 ④ —	8			fired out to centerfield
Shortstop	6-4 BB	6			popped out to shortstop
1st Baseman	3 ⑤ FC	K			struck out swinging
3rd Baseman	⑤				doubled, scored on No. 5 batter's single
Right Fielder	SB 2 6-2 —				singled, advanced to 2nd on next batter's single, stole 3rd base, thrown out on grounder, shortstop to catcher
Left Fielder	SB				singled, stole 2nd base
Designated Hitter	FC				reached 1st on fielder's choice
2nd Baseman	4				popped out to 2nd base
Catcher					doubled
Totals	R H	3 4	0 1		





COMO ANOTAR EL JUEGO

Distintos fanáticos tienen diferentes métodos de llevar la anotación, además muchos usan sus propios signos o símbolos. Pero hay un metodo mas sencillo.

Primero escriba la alineación inicial. Cuando el juego comienze, anote en la columna correspondiente a la entrada correcta y vaya a el encasillado al lado del nombre de el bateador que está en el plato. Si el bateador es puesto fuera (out), escriba que fué out, de acuerdo a la leyenda que sigue a continuación. Si el bateador conecta arrastrado al jardinero corto, por ejemplo, anote "6-3", señalando que el paracorto tiró a primera base para retirarlo de out. El símbolo utilizado para anotar un elevado al jardín izquierdo, por ejemplo, sería "F 7".

Si el bateador batea un indiscutible, anótelos de acuerdo a la base alcanzada. Las esquinas del cuadrado representan las bases, la esquina inferior derecha sería la primera base. Si él conecta un sencillo, anote "-" en el lado derecho inferior. Si conecta doblete, escriba "=" en el lado superior derecho, y así sucesivamente. Si recibe una base por bola, escriba "BB" en el lado derecho inferior. Según los corredores vayan avanzando, escriba el símbolo apropiado en la respectiva esquina.

Si un corredor anota, ponga un círculo en la base del cuadrado, dentro ponga el símbolo de la jugada y/o el jugador que empujó la carrera. Por ejemplo, si el quinto bateador empujó dos carreras con un sencillo, anoté su sencillo en el lado derecho inferior del cuadrado y dibuje un círculo con el número "5" en las casillas de los corredores que anotaron.

Al finalizar cada entrada, sume todos los inconjibles y carreras de esa entrada solamente. Al final del juego usted podrá sumar los totales de cada entrada, llegando a la anotación final.

MUESTRA DE UNA LIBRETA DE ANOTACIÓN

Numero Los Peloteros de la Siguiente Manera:

1 - Lanzador
2 - Receptor
3 - Primera Base
4 - Segunda Base
5 - Tercera Base
6 - Jardinero Corto
7 - Jardinero Izquierdo
8 - Jardinero Central
9 - Jardinero Derecho
DH - Bateador Designado
(Usado exclusivamente en los parques de la liga Americana)

Símbolos Para Anotar Jugadas:

Sencillo —
Doble =
Triple ≡
Cuadrangular ≡≡
Sacrificio - SAC

Base por Bola - BB
Ponche - P
Movimiento Ilegal - MI
Elevado de Faul - F
Jugada de Selección - JS

Pelotazo - PO
Lanzamiento Errático - LE
Pasbol - PB
Base Robada - BR
Jugada Forzada - JF

Doble Jugada - D
Error - E
Elevado de
Sacrificio - ES

Símbolos Adicionales:

BB1 - Base por Bola Intencional
PC - Ponchete Cantado
L - Línea De Cañonazo
TB - Toque de Bola
JSA - Jugada sin Asistencia

Equipo	1	2
Jardinero Central	3 2 ④ —	8
Jardinero Corto	6 4 BB	6
Primera Base	3 ⑤ JS	P
Tercera Base	⑤	=
Jardinero Derecho	BR 2 6-2 —	
Jardinero Izquierdo	BR	
Bateador Designado	JS	
Segunda Base	4	
Receptor		
Totales	R H 3 4 0 1	

PRIMERA ENTRADA

Conectó sencillo, avanzó a segunda base por bola recibida por el siguiente bateador, adelantó a tercera por jugada de selección anoto por doble del No. 4 bateador

Recibió base por bola, mas tarde fue forzado en la segunda base, de jardinero corto a el defensor del segundo saco

Llegó a primera, por jugada de selección, avanzó a tercera base por doblete del próximo bateador, anotó por sencillo del No. 5 bateador

Pegó doble, anotó por sencillo del No. 5 bateador

Conectó sencillo, avanzó a segunda por inconjible del bateador siguiente, se robó la tercera base, fue retirado en el plato. Del paracorto al receptor

Sencillo, se robó la segunda base

Llegó a primera base por jugada de selección

Out, en elevado a segunda

Bateo Doblete

SEGUNDA ENTRADA

Out, en elevado al jardinero central

Out, en elevado al jardinero corto

Se ponchó tirándole al tercer strike

[illegible][illegible][illegible]



2B	
3B	
HR	
SB	
S	
SF	



ROSTERS

THE PLAYERS AND
COACHES SELECTED
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE 1998
ALL-STAR GAME

American League Rosters

MANAGER

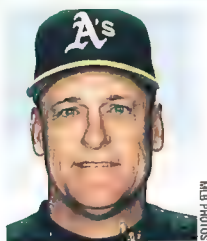


MIKE HARGROVE

MANAGER
CLEVELAND INDIANS

Hargrove, a 1975 All-Star and 12-year veteran as a player, has guided Cleveland to two of the past three American League championships.

COACHES



ART HOWE

MANAGER
OAKLAND ATHLETICS

This season marks Howe's 27th year in professional baseball and third as Oakland's skipper. The former infielder enjoyed a 10-year playing career.



JOE TORRE

MANAGER
NEW YORK YANKEES

A nine-time All-Star as a player, Torre is enjoying his third season at the helm in New York. He led the Yankees to a World Series title in 1996.

ROBERTO ALOMAR

SECOND BASE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES



This six-time Gold Glove winner has appeared in every All-Star Game during the '90s. Alomar entered 1998 boasting a career .304 batting average and a .983 fielding percentage.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
310	52	93	8	32	.300

BARTOLO COLON

PITCHER
CLEVELAND INDIANS



After a rough rookie campaign in 1997, Colon found his groove this year to earn his first Midsummer Classic selection. The 23-year-old boasts the lowest ERA of Indians' starters.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	118.1	8	4	2.51	0

SANDY ALOMAR JR.

CATCHER
CLEVELAND INDIANS



Alomar earned MVP honors after belting a game-winning homer in the 1997 Midsummer Classic at his home ballpark of Jacobs Field. This is his sixth trip to the All-Star Game.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
226	33	61	5	30	.270

RAY DURHAM

SECOND BASE
CHICAGO WHITE SOX



Selected to the Midsummer Classic for the first time, Durham has been a successful table-setter this season. The fourth-year player is looking to achieve his first .300-plus season.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
316	58	91	7	27	.288



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

ROLANDO ARROJO

PITCHER
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS



MLB PHOTOS

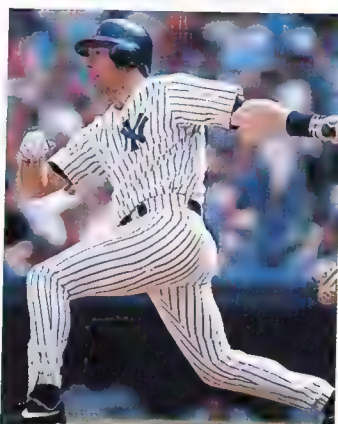
In just his first Major League season, this former Cuban National Team star is paying off huge dividends as a starter for the expansion Devil Rays. Arrojo is on pace to tally 20 wins.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	113.1	10	4	3.02	0

SCOTT BROSIUS

THIRD BASE
NEW YORK YANKEES



MLB PHOTOS

After struggling with Oakland last year, Brosius has regained the form that saw him produce a .304 batting average and club 22 homers in 1996. This is his first Midsummer Classic.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
260	45	80	8	51	.308

ROGER CLEMENS

PITCHER
TORONTO BLUE JAYS



MLB PHOTOS

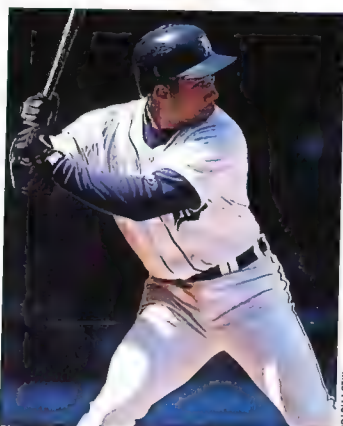
Last year's AL Cy Young Award winner is enjoying another solid season and is once again among the league's strikeout leaders. Clemens has been selected to seven All-Star Games.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	111.2	9	6	3.71	0

DAMION EASLEY

SECOND BASE
DETROIT TIGERS



MLB PHOTOS

Easley is enjoying a breakthrough year at the plate and is on pace to set career marks in average, homers and runs batted in. His flash of power has earned him his first All-Star selection.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
302	47	88	19	60	.291

DARIN ERSTAD

OUTFIELD
ANAHEIM ANGELS



MLB PHOTOS

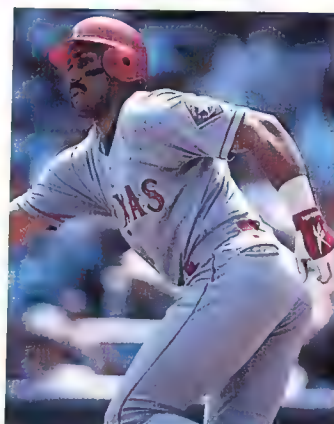
This 24-year-old has split time between first base and the outfield while providing the Angels with their most consistent bat. Erstad is making his All-Star Game debut.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
345	56	109	17	57	.316

JUAN GONZALEZ

OUTFIELD
TEXAS RANGERS



MLB PHOTOS

Gonzalez is on pace to shatter Hack Wilson's single-season record of 190 RBI, set in 1930. A perennial contender for the AL home run crown, this is his second All-Star Game.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
334	58	99	24	96	.296

American League Rosters

TOM GORDON

PITCHER
BOSTON RED SOX



MLB PHOTOS

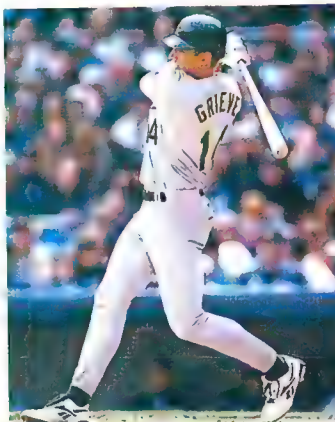
Gordon converted from a starting pitcher to a closer last year and has excelled in his new role. Making his All-Star Game debut this year, he is on pace to notch at least 40 saves.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
40	43.2	4	2	2.68	24

BEN GRIEVE

OUTFIELD
OAKLAND ATHLETICS



MLB PHOTOS

A top candidate to earn AL Rookie of the Year honors, the 22-year-old Grieve has adjusted well to big league pitching, thanks to a sweet stroke that keeps pitchers honest.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
311	63	99	12	51	.318

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

OUTFIELD
SEATTLE MARINERS



MLB PHOTOS

Junior is the Majors' leading vote-getter in All-Star balloting for the third-consecutive season. An All-Star throughout the '90s, he's on pace to challenge the celebrated 61-HR mark.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
327	70	92	33	72	.281

PEDRO MARTINEZ

PITCHER
BOSTON RED SOX



MLB PHOTOS

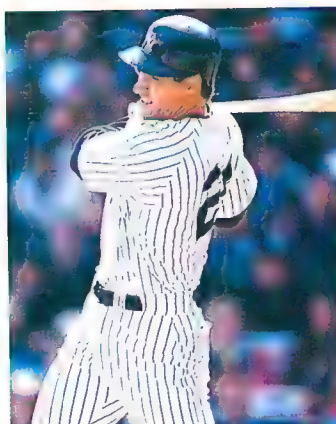
The 1997 National League Cy Young Award winner as a member of the Expos, Martinez continues to dominate in the AL. This marks his third selection to the All-Star Game.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	119.1	10	2	3.02	0

PAUL O'NEILL

OUTFIELD
NEW YORK YANKEES



MLB PHOTOS

A four-time All-Star, O'Neill has hit at least .300 in every season with the Yankees, dating back to '93. He's on pace for his highest batting average since an AL-best .359 in '94.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
306	51	99	10	59	.324

DEAN PALMER

THIRD BASE
KANSAS CITY ROYALS



WILLIAMSON & PHOTOS

Palmer's first full season with the Royals has been a hot one—he's on pace for his third career season with at least 30 home runs. The slugger is making his All-Star Game debut.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
285	43	82	16	45	.288



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

DEREK JETER

SHORTSTOP
NEW YORK YANKEES



MLB PHOTOS

This 24-year-old shortstop earned his first trip to the Midsummer Classic by bolstering his batting average among the league's best throughout the first half of the '98 season.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
277	58	86	9	41	.310

KENNY LOFTON

OUTFIELD
CLEVELAND INDIANS



MLB PHOTOS

This season, Lofton earned his fifth selection to the Midsummer Classic. After spending last year in Atlanta, one of the Majors' premiere base stealers is tearing up the AL again.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
311	54	87	7	41	.280

UMPIRES



MLB PHOTOS

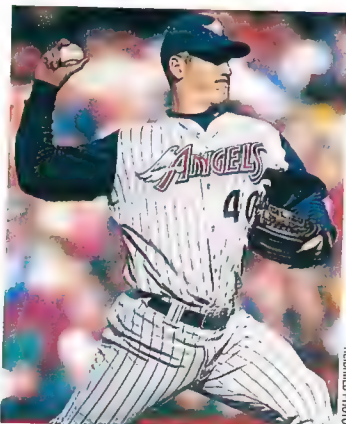
DERRYL COUSINS

FIRST BASE

Currently enjoying his 20th season as a big league umpire, Cousins is making his second appearance in the All-Star Game.

TROY PERCIVAL

PITCHER
ANAHEIM ANGELS



REDA/MLB PHOTOS

After an injury-plagued '97 season, Percival has once again perched himself atop the AL leader board in saves. The fireballer has been selected to the Midsummer Classic twice.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
36	35.1	1	2	2.80	25

BRAD RADKE

PITCHER
MINNESOTA TWINS



ZGARI/MLB PHOTOS

One of the most consistent starters in the AL last year, Radke is making his first All-Star Game appearance. In '97, he became the fourth pitcher in 50 years to win 12 straight starts.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	114.1	8	6	2.83	0



REDA/MLB PHOTOS

RICK REED

THIRD BASE

A native of Detroit, Mich., Reed joined the American League staff in 1983. He last served as umpire of a Midsummer Classic in 1986.



MLB PHOTOS

TIM MCCLELLAND

RIGHT FIELD

McClelland is working his second All-Star Game. An off-season resident of West Des Moines, Ia., he enjoys helping children's organizations.

American League Rosters

CAL RIPKEN JR.

THIRD BASE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES



MLB PHOTOS

The Orioles' "Iron Man" played in his 2,500th consecutive game in April. A model of consistency, Ripken has been selected to the All-Star Game in each of the past 16 seasons.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
310	36	81	7	35	.261

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

SHORTSTOP
SEATTLE MARINERS



MLB PHOTOS

One of the game's premiere shortstops, this three-time All-Star combines fine glove-work with power—he's challenging teammate Ken Griffey Jr. for the AL home run crown.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
355	60	110	27	66	.310

IVAN RODRIGUEZ

CATCHER
TEXAS RANGERS



MLB PHOTOS

One of baseball's best all-around catchers and a seven-time All-Star, Rodriguez has earned six straight Gold Glove Awards. He's also one of the AL's hottest hitters this season.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
288	50	102	10	43	.354

MO VAUGHN

FIRST BASE
BOSTON RED SOX



MLB PHOTOS

Vaughn has posted four-straight seasons of .300-plus hitting, including more than 25 homers and 80 RBI in each campaign. The "Hit Dog" is making his third All-Star appearance.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
309	49	101	21	56	.327

OMAR VIZQUEL

SHORTSTOP
CLEVELAND INDIANS



MLB PHOTOS

Making his first appearance in the All-Star Game, Vizquel combines a near-.300 average with dazzling glove-work. The 10-year veteran has won five straight Gold Glove Awards.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
303	48	91	0	28	.300

DAVID WELLS

PITCHER
NEW YORK YANKEES



MLB PHOTOS

This left-hander stopped the baseball world with a perfect game against the Twins on May 17. A first-time All-Star, Wells is on pace to top his season-best win total of 16.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
15	105.2	10	2	3.92	0



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

AARON SELE

PITCHER
TEXAS RANGERS



REDAUX PHOTOS

Sele came close to matching his career-high victory total (13) in the first half of the '98 season alone. This is the first All-Star Game selection for the 27-year-old right-hander.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	112.0	11	5	4.26	0

JIM THOME

FIRST BASE
CLEVELAND INDIANS



MAB PHOTOS

Swinging one of the deadliest sticks in the Majors, Thome is near the top of the AL in average, home runs and RBI. This marks his second-straight trip to the Midsummer Classic.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
286	62	95	21	68	.332

TRAINERS



MINNESOTA TWINS

DICK MARTIN
MINNESOTA TWINS



DETROIT TIGERS

RUSS MILLER
DETROIT TIGERS

JOHN WETTELAND

PITCHER
TEXAS RANGERS



WILLIAMS PHOTOS

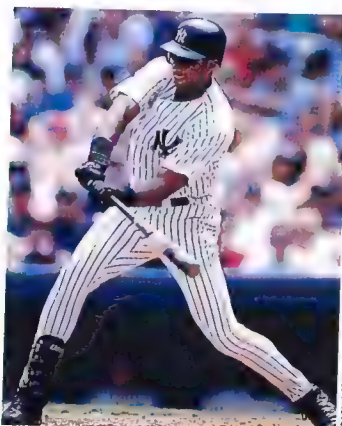
Wetteland's ERA and save total through the first half has been near the top of all AL closers. In his last All-Star season of 1996, he went on to lead the league with 43 saves.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
31	30.0	2	0	1.50	22

BERNIE WILLIAMS

OUTFIELD
NEW YORK YANKEES



MAB PHOTOS

This Yankee switch-hitter is among the AL leaders in batting average and slugging percentage. A two-time All-Star, Williams earned his first Gold Glove in center field in 1997.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
224	47	79	10	44	.353

HONORARY CAPTAIN



ALL-STAR PHOTOS

LEE MACPHAIL

A 1998 Hall of Fame inductee, MacPhail's front-office career spanned 45 years. He served as the president of the American League from 1974 to '83.

National League Rosters

MANAGER



JIM LEYLAND

MANAGER
FLORIDA MARLINS

After reaching the NLCS three times with the Pirates, Leyland appeared in his first World Series last year and led the Marlins to a World Championship.

COACHES



DON BAYLOR

MANAGER
COLORADO ROCKIES

Now in his sixth year as Colorado's manager, Baylor—the 1979 AL MVP—is the only skipper the franchise has had since its inaugural season in '93.



GENE LAMONT

MANAGER
PITTSBURGH PIRATES

A 33-year veteran of professional baseball, Lamont is in his second year as Pittsburgh's manager. He led the Pirates to a second-place finish in '97.

MOISES ALOU

OUTFIELD
HOUSTON ASTROS



Alou, who knocked in nine runs for Florida in the '97 World Series, entered this season possessing a .292 lifetime batting average. He is playing in his third Midsummer Classic.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
291	47	93	18	67	.320

ANDY ASHBY

PITCHER
SAN DIEGO PADRES



This first-time All-Star selection has sprinted out to the best start in his six-year career. Ashby ranks among NL leaders in wins, ERA, innings pitched and complete games.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
18	133.0	10	5	2.57	0

KEVIN BROWN

PITCHER
SAN DIEGO PADRES



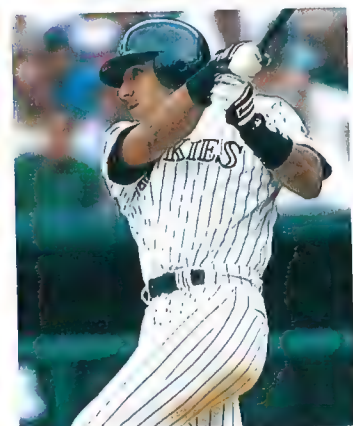
This crafty right-hander has been selected to four All-Star Games. If Brown's second half of the season is as good as his first, he'll reach 16-or-more wins for the third year in a row.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
18	126.2	9	3	2.77	0

VINNY CASTILLA

THIRD BASE
COLORADO ROCKIES



This Rockies slugger posted identical offensive numbers in both 1996 and '97: .304 batting average, 40 homers and 113 RBI. Castilla is making his second All-Star Game appearance.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
335	54	101	23	72	.301



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

DANTE BICHETTE

OUTFIELD
COLORADO ROCKIES



MLB PHOTOS

This "Blake Street Bomber" has his sights locked on topping his career-best average for a season—he hit .340 in '95. He's been selected to four All-Star Games, all with Colorado.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
348	51	117	11	67	.336

CRAIG BIGGIO

SECOND BASE
HOUSTON ASTROS



KEVIN MAZUR PHOTOS

Biggio has been the NL's top run scorer through most of the first half of '98 and also ranks near the top in stolen bases. He's been selected to seven Midsummer Classics.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
321	72	106	11	47	.330

BARRY BONDS

OUTFIELD
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



GRIFFIN PHOTOS

One of baseball's premiere outfielders, Bonds is appearing in his eighth All-Star Game. The three-time NL MVP has bashed more than 30 home runs in seven of the past eight seasons.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
287	54	82	17	58	.286

ANDRES GALARRAGA

FIRST BASE
ATLANTA BRAVES



MLB PHOTOS

The "Big Cat" has fit right into the Braves lineup this season and has been the club's main power source. A four-time All-Star, Galarraga led the NL in RBI in both '96 and '97.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
294	63	91	27	70	.310

TOM GLAVINE

PITCHER
ATLANTA BRAVES



MLB PHOTOS

This Braves southpaw has been selected to the Midsummer Classic six times, twice as the NL starter. Glavine is on pace for his fourth career 20-victory season and first since '93.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
17	116.1	11	3	2.71	0

TONY GWYNN

OUTFIELD
SAN DIEGO PADRES



MLB PHOTOS

One of baseball's purest hitters, Gwynn has led the NL in batting eight times. A 14-time All-Star, he entered the '98 season owning a lifetime batting average of .340.

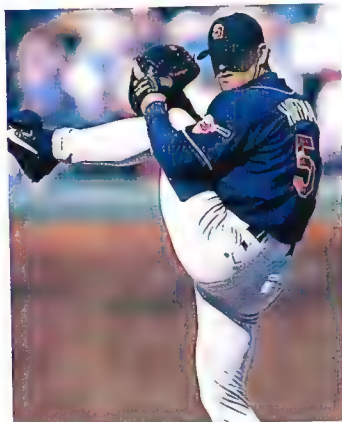
1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
270	42	90	7	44	.333

National League Rosters

TREVOR HOFFMAN

PITCHER
SAN DIEGO PADRES



VESEL/MLB PHOTOS

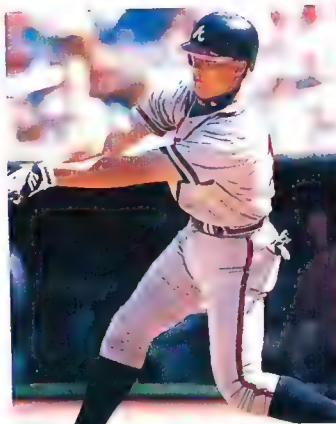
Quickly emerging as one of the best closers in the Majors, Hoffman is appearing in his first All-Star Game. The flame-thrower ranks near the top of the league in saves this season.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
33	36.2	3	0	1.96	24

CHIPPER JONES

THIRD BASE
ATLANTA BRAVES



MLB PHOTOS

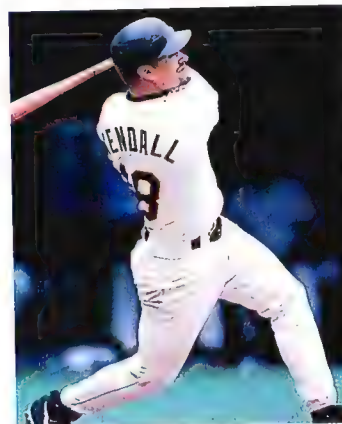
Jones is making his third consecutive appearance in the Midsummer Classic. This switch-hitting slugger is within range to achieve a career-best 40 home runs this season.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
317	62	95	18	65	.300

JASON KENDALL

CATCHER
PITTSBURGH PIRATES



MLB PHOTOS

Kendall has been selected to two All-Star Games in his first three big league seasons. The 24-year-old catcher has ranked near the top of the league in batting average in '98.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
278	46	93	5	38	.335

MARK MCGWIRE

FIRST BASE
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



MLB PHOTOS

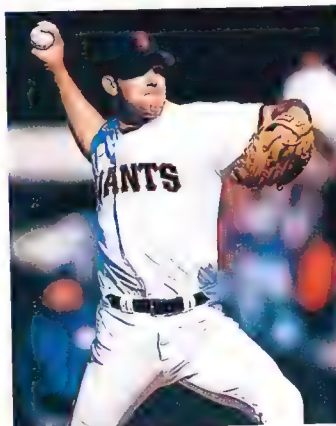
The hulking first baseman has set a blistering home run pace thus far in '98 in pursuit of the celebrated 61-home runs mark. McGwire has been selected to 10 Midsummer Classics.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
257	66	82	37	87	.319

ROBB NEN

PITCHER
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS



IMAGINATION/MLB PHOTOS

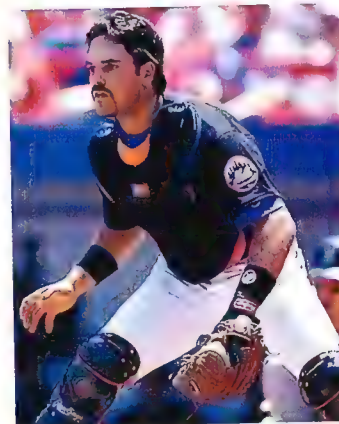
Nen saved a whopping 93 games for the Marlins over the past three seasons and has continued that success with the Giants. This is the closer's first All-Star Game appearance.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
42	51.1	5	1	1.05	23

MIKE PIAZZA

CATCHER
NEW YORK METS



MLB PHOTOS

Piazza has been selected as an NL All-Star in every season since his rookie year in '93. The Mets backstop entered the '98 campaign with an eye-popping .334 career batting average.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
286	41	88	13	45	.308



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

JAVIER LOPEZ
CATCHER
ATLANTA BRAVES



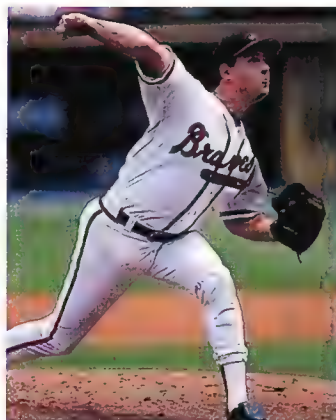
MLB PHOTOS

Lopez has been selected to play in the last two Midsummer Classics. The Braves catcher is on pace to surpass career highs in home runs (23) and runs batted in (69) this season.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
249	37	77	19	58	.309

GREG MADDUX
PITCHER
ATLANTA BRAVES



MLB PHOTOS

Maddux ranks near the top of the NL in wins, ERA, complete games, shutouts and innings pitched. A four-time Cy Young Award winner, this is his seventh All-Star Game appearance.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
18	137.1	11	2	1.64	0

UMPIRES



MLB PHOTOS

ED MONTAGUE
HOME PLATE

Montague became a regular member of the NL staff in 1976. He's working his third All-Star Game, and first since the '90 showcase at Wrigley Field.



MLB PHOTOS

BRIAN GORMAN
SECOND BASE

Making his first appearance as an All-Star Game umpire, Gorman joined the NL staff in 1993. He worked his first big league game April 24, 1991.

RICK REED
PITCHER
NEW YORK METS



MLB PHOTOS

After an impressive performance last year, in which he finished 13-9 with a 2.89 ERA, Reed is enjoying even more success in '98. This is the right-hander's Midsummer Classic debut.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
16	113.0	9	5	2.71	0

EDGAR RENTERIA
SHORTSTOP
FLORIDA MARLINS



MLB PHOTOS

Renteria laced the winning hit in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series to lift Florida over Cleveland. The first-time All-Star entered '98 touting a .977 career fielding percentage.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
320	51	98	1	21	.306



MLB PHOTOS

RICH RIEKER
LEFT FIELD

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Rieker became a regular member of the NL staff just two seasons ago. He's working his first Midsummer Classic.

National League Rosters

CURT SCHILLING
PITCHER
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES



ALB PHOTOS

Schilling is making his second-straight All-Star Game appearance. The flamethrowing workhorse led the Majors in strikeouts last year and is on pace to repeat the feat in '98.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
18	138.0	7	8	3.07	0

JEFF SHAW
PITCHER
CINCINNATI REDS



ALB PHOTOS

Shaw saved an NL-best 42 games in '97 and is again among the league's best at putting out fires. The first-time All-Star Game selection celebrates his 32nd birthday today.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
37	47.2	1	4	1.89	22

GARY SHEFFIELD
OUTFIELD
LOS ANGELES DODGERS



ROSANOVA PHOTOS

Sheffield is on pace to bat above the .300 mark for the third time in the past four seasons. The 11-year veteran slugger is appearing in the All-Star Game for the fourth time.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
267	43	81	13	56	.303

GREG VAUGHN
OUTFIELD
SAN DIEGO PADRES



SPHLEAVAL PHOTOS

Vaughn has been selected to the Midsummer Classic three times—this is his first for the NL. The Padres outfielder is on pace to achieve his first 40-plus home run campaign.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
301	61	89	27	68	.296

FERNANDO VINA
SECOND BASE
MILWAUKEE BREWERS



ALB PHOTOS

This 28-year-old second baseman is in the midst of his best year at the plate. Playing in his fourth full Major League season, Vina is making his first All-Star Game appearance.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
321	52	96	4	19	.299

LARRY WALKER
OUTFIELD
COLORADO ROCKIES



ALB PHOTOS

The 1997 NL MVP, Walker is making his third All-Star Game appearance. The Rockies slugger finished '97 with an astonishing .366 batting average, 49 home runs and 130 runs batted in.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
235	51	79	9	33	.336



All statistics are up to July 1, 1998.

SAMMY SOSA

OUTFIELD
CHICAGO CUBS



MLB PHOTOS

Sosa just set a new Major League home run mark for one month, with 20 during June, and is putting up Triple Crown-like numbers. This is his second trip to the Midsummer Classic.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
318	63	104	33	79	.327

UGUETH URBINA

PITCHER
MONTREAL EXPOS



ROSTON/MLB PHOTOS

This 24-year-old closer has staked his claim as one of the best relievers in the league in '98, ranking among NL leaders in saves and ERA. He's making his All-Star Game debut.

1998 STATS

G	IP	W	L	ERA	SV
35	38.1	4	2	1.41	20

TRAINERS



GOZZALE/ROCKIES

DAVE CILLADI
COLORADO ROCKIES



PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

MARK ANDERSEN
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

WALT WEISS

SHORTSTOP
ATLANTA BRAVES



MLB PHOTOS

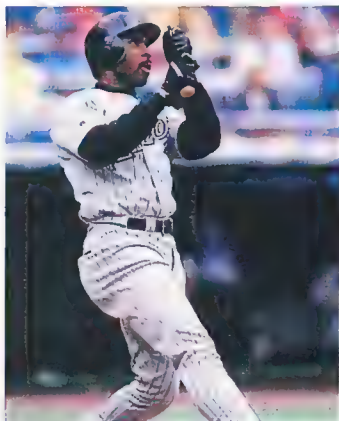
The 1988 AL Rookie of the Year is making his All-Star Game debut in his first year with Atlanta. Weiss has complemented his steady defense with an average well above the .300 mark.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
195	42	63	0	16	.323

DEVON WHITE

OUTFIELD
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS



MLB PHOTOS

Covering the vast center field in Arizona has been no problem for this three-time All-Star. White, who owns seven Gold Gloves, is also in striking range of a .300 batting average.

1998 STATS

AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
320	51	92	12	44	.288

HONORARY CAPTAIN



PITTSBURGH PIRATES

VERA CLEMENTE

The widow of Pirates legend Roberto Clemente, Vera acts as the executive director of the Roberto Clemente Sports City, which benefits underprivileged children in Puerto Rico.



American League

MANAGER

Mike Hargrove
Cleveland Indians

COACHES

Art Howe
Oakland Athletics

Joe Torre
New York Yankees

TRAINERS

Dick Martin
Minnesota Twins

Russ Miller
Detroit Tigers

HONORARY CAPTAIN

Lee MacPhail

NO.	PLAYER	CLUB	B	T	HT.	WT.	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
12	Roberto Alomar	Orioles	B	R	6-0	185	2-5-68	Ponce, P.R.
15	Sandy Alomar Jr.	Indians	R	R	6-5	215	6-18-66	Salinas, P.R.
30	Rolando Arrojo	Devil Rays	R	R	6-4	215	7-18-68	Havana, Cuba
18	Scott Brosius	Yankees	R	R	6-1	202	8-15-66	Hillsboro, Ore.
21	Roger Clemens	Blue Jays	R	R	6-4	230	8-4-62	Dayton, Ohio
40	Bartolo Colon	Indians	R	R	6-0	185	5-24-75	Altamira, D.R.
5	Ray Durham	White Sox	B	R	5-8	170	11-30-71	Charlotte, N.C.
9	Damion Easley	Tigers	R	R	5-11	185	11-11-69	New York, N.Y.
27	Darin Erstad	Angels	L	L	6-2	210	6-4-74	Jamestown, N.D.
19	Juan Gonzalez	Rangers	R	R	6-3	220	10-16-69	Vega Baja, P.R.
36	Tom Gordon	Red Sox	R	R	5-9	180	11-18-67	Sebring, Fla.
14	Ben Grieve	Athletics	L	R	6-4	200	5-4-76	Arlington, Tex.
24	Ken Griffey Jr.	Mariners	L	L	6-3	205	11-21-69	Donora, Pa.
2	Derek Jeter	Yankees	R	R	6-3	185	6-26-74	Pequannock, N.J.
7	Kenny Lofton	Indians	L	L	6-0	190	5-31-67	East Chicago, Ind.
45	Pedro Martinez	Red Sox	R	R	5-11	175	10-25-71	Manoguayabo, D.R.
21	Paul O'Neill	Yankees	L	L	6-4	215	2-25-63	Columbus, Ohio
16	Dean Palmer	Royals	R	R	6-1	210	12-27-68	Tallahassee, Fla.
40	Troy Percival	Angels	R	R	6-3	200	8-9-69	Fontana, Calif.
22	Brad Radke	Twins	R	R	6-2	190	10-27-72	Eau Claire, Wis.
8	Cal Ripken Jr.	Orioles	R	R	6-4	220	8-24-60	Havre de Grace, Md.
3	Alex Rodriguez	Mariners	R	R	6-3	195	7-27-75	New York, N.Y.
7	Ivan Rodriguez	Rangers	R	R	5-9	205	11-30-71	Vega Baja, P.R.
30	Aaron Sele	Rangers	R	R	6-5	215	6-25-70	Golden Valley, N.M.
25	Jim Thome	Indians	L	R	6-4	225	8-27-70	Peoria, Ill.
42	Mo Vaughn	Red Sox	L	R	6-1	240	12-15-67	Norwalk, Conn.
13	Omar Vizquel	Indians	B	R	5-9	165	4-24-67	Caracas, Venezuela
33	David Wells	Yankees	L	L	6-4	225	5-20-63	Torrance, Calif.
35	John Wetteland	Rangers	R	R	6-2	215	8-21-66	San Mateo, Calif.
51	Bernie Williams	Yankees	B	R	6-2	205	9-13-68	San Juan, P.R.



National League

MANAGER

Jim Leyland
Florida Marlins

COACHES

Don Baylor
Colorado Rockies

Gene Lamont
Pittsburgh Pirates

TRAINERS

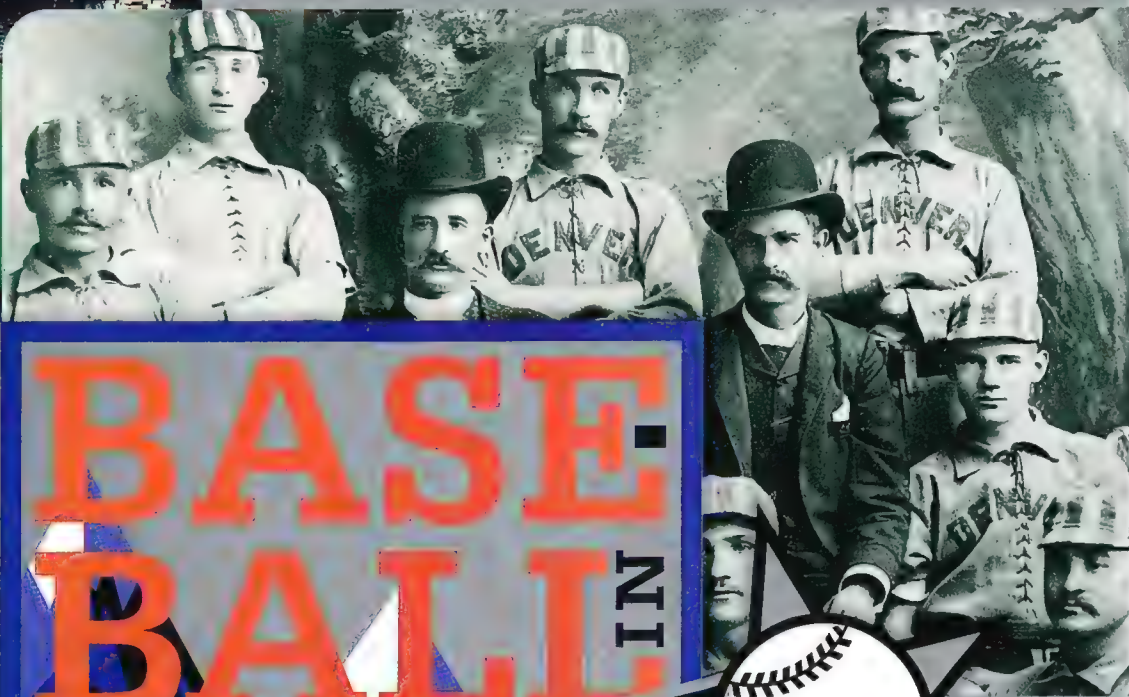
Dave Cilladi
Colorado Rockies

Mark Andersen
Philadelphia Phillies

HONORARY CAPTAIN

Vera Clemente

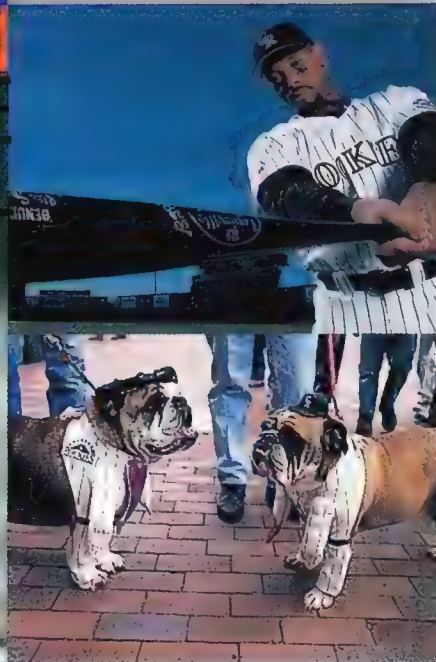
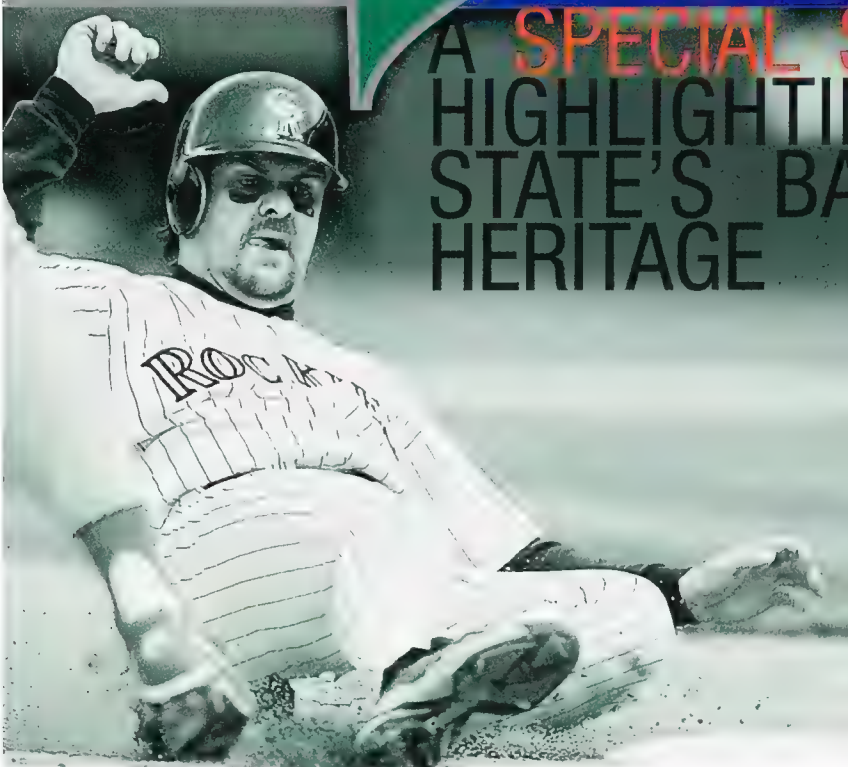
NO.	PLAYER	CLUB	B	T	HT.	WT.	BORN	BIRTHPLACE
18	Moises Alou	Astros	R	R	6-3	195	7-3-66	Atlanta, Ga.
43	Andy Ashby	Padres	R	R	6-5	190	7-11-67	Kansas City, Mo.
10	Dante Bichette	Rockies	R	R	6-3	228	11-18-63	West Palm Beach, Fla.
7	Craig Biggio	Astros	R	R	5-11	180	12-14-65	Smithtown, N.Y.
25	Barry Bonds	Giants	L	L	6-2	206	7-24-64	Riverside, Calif.
27	Kevin Brown	Padres	R	R	6-4	200	3-14-65	McIntyre, Ga.
9	Vinny Castilla	Rockies	R	R	6-1	204	7-4-67	Oaxaca, Mexico
14	Andres Galarraga	Braves	R	R	6-3	235	6-18-61	Caracas, Venezuela
47	Tom Glavine	Braves	L	L	6-1	185	3-25-66	Concord, Mass.
19	Tony Gwynn	Padres	L	L	5-11	220	5-9-60	Los Angeles, Calif.
51	Trevor Hoffman	Padres	R	R	6-0	205	10-13-67	Bellflower, Calif.
10	Chipper Jones	Braves	B	R	6-4	210	4-24-72	De Land, Fla.
18	Jason Kendall	Pirates	R	R	6-0	190	6-26-74	San Diego, Calif.
8	Javier Lopez	Braves	R	R	6-3	200	11-5-70	Ponce, P.R.
31	Greg Maddux	Braves	R	R	6-0	175	4-14-66	San Angelo, Tex.
25	Mark McGwire	Cardinals	R	R	6-5	250	10-1-63	Pomona, Calif.
31	Robb Nen	Giants	R	R	6-5	210	11-28-69	San Pedro, Calif.
31	Mike Piazza	Mets	R	R	6-3	223	9-4-68	Norristown, Pa.
35	Rick Reed	Mets	R	R	6-1	195	8-16-65	Huntington, W.Va.
16	Edgar Renteria	Marlins	R	R	6-1	180	8-7-75	Barranquilla, Colombia
38	Curt Schilling	Phillies	R	R	6-4	228	11-14-66	Anchorage, Ak.
41	Jeff Shaw	Reds	R	R	6-2	200	7-7-66	Wash. Court House, Ohio
10	Gary Sheffield	Dodgers	R	R	5-11	205	11-18-68	Tampa, Fla.
21	Sammy Sosa	Cubs	R	R	6-0	200	11-12-68	S.P. de Macoris, D.R.
41	Ugueth Urbina	Expos	R	R	6-2	205	2-15-74	Caracas, Venezuela
23	Greg Vaughn	Padres	R	R	6-0	202	7-3-65	Sacramento, Calif.
1	Fernando Vina	Brewers	L	R	5-9	170	4-16-69	Sacramento, Calif.
33	Larry Walker	Rockies	L	R	6-3	235	12-1-66	Maple Ridge, B.C., Canada
22	Walt Weiss	Braves	B	R	6-0	175	11-28-63	Tuxedo, N.Y.
22	Devon White	Diamondbacks	B	R	6-2	190	12-29-62	Kingston, Jamaica

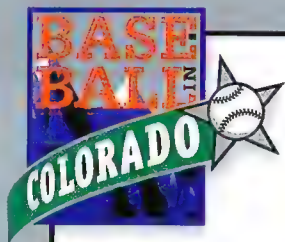


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STRIKING



BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY (BEARS); RICK CLARKSON/CLARKSON & ASSOC (SCOREBOARD)

KIES



COLORADO ROCKIES OWNER JERRY MCMORRIS RAISED A FEW EYEBROWS AMONG fellow Major League owners when he balked at the initial idea of revenue-sharing.

"For 30 years, baseball didn't feel Colorado could support a team," he said. "Now they want us to support 28." Point made.

After more than three decades of flirtation, Colorado finally was awarded a franchise for the 1993 season. The reservations about whether the Rocky Mountains had a big enough population to support baseball quickly disappeared.

The Rockies have led baseball in attendance in each of their five years of existence, including setting a Major League record in their inaugural season, when they sold 4,483,350 tickets to games in make-shift Mile High Stadium, home of the NFL Denver Broncos.

And they have been a success on the field, too, where stability has been a key. Manager Don Baylor and general manager Bob Gebhard, the only men who have filled those positions in the franchise's history, have worked together longer than all but three of the current manager-general manager tandems in baseball.

Colorado made it into the Post Season quicker than any expansion team—earning the NL wild-card spot in 1995—and is the only expansion

team to enjoy three winning records in its first five years of existence. Andres Galarraga won the NL batting title in 1993, and NL RBI titles in 1996 and '97. Dante Bichette led the NL in home runs and RBI in 1995. And Larry Walker became the first Rockie and first native-born Canadian to win an MVP when he claimed the NL honor in 1997.

Things have gone so smoothly...finally. Denver's quest to make it to the big leagues began in 1960 when former Colorado Gov. Ed Johnson, and his son-in-law, long-time baseball executive Bob Howsam, helped devise the Continental League, a proposed third major league. The idea never came to life, however. Houston and New York, two of eight proposed cities, were a part of the original NL expansion, a process that over the years has led to all potential Continental League cities except Buffalo being awarded Major League teams.

Denver was finally awarded a club during the league's fourth wave of expansion in 1993, but not before unsuccessful bids to bring the Oakland A's, San Francisco Giants, Pittsburgh Pirates and San Diego Padres to town during the '70s and '80s.

FOLKS HAVE BEEN PLAYING "BASE BALL" IN COLORADO SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1993 THAT DENVER FINALLY REACHED THE BIGS.

MORE THAN A CENTURY BEFORE THE ROCKIES REACHED POST SEASON PLAY IN 1995 (ABOVE), DENVER'S 1886 TEAM (LEFT) WAS THRILLING THE LOCALS.

BY TRACY RINGOLSBY

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Even the Rockies had rocky moments in their formative stages. When local investors didn't surface, the NL originally awarded the franchise to a group headed by Mickey Monus and John Antonucci, businessmen from Youngstown, Ohio, whose empire fell apart in August of 1992, less than four months before the Expansion Draft. Major League Baseball nearly disbanded the Colorado franchise, until McMorris, Charles Monfort and Oren Benton, stepped forward to become the new general partners.

"While the league was very supportive, I was concerned," McMorris admits. "We couldn't stand to have a period of limbo, in case somebody thought the league would consider the best thing to do would be to move the franchise."

But, in the summer of 1993, Major League Baseball had arrived for good in Colorado. A region that boasted a long and significant history in baseball had struck paydirt.

Baseball was first welcomed to the region during the 1860s, fueled



Joe Tinker

by a population influx created by the growth of the booming mining industry.

The first salaried team surfaced in 1882. The Colorado Baseball League was formed with teams from Leadville, Colorado Springs and Denver, fielding a team of amateurs. One player who came out of Colorado's initial entry into professional baseball was John McPhee, who is widely recognized as the last individual to play without a glove, during an 18-year Major League career that ended with Cincinnati.

But it was George Tebeau, who played for the Denver team in 1885 and '86 and six years in the Majors, who made the greatest impact. After his playing career, Tebeau formed and managed independent teams in Colorado.

In 1893, his Denver team included pitcher William Castone and catcher Fast George Taylor, the last black men allowed to play with white professionals until Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947.

Tebeau brought Minor League baseball back to the city in 1900 with a club he named the Denver Bears. His team featured a 19-year-old in-

fielder, Joe Tinker, who was to become part of baseball lore as the Chicago Cubs' shortstop in the Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance double play combination.

In 1911, the Bears won a Colorado professional record 111 games, and the following season its staff included future Major League pitcher Dutch Leonard. But after winning a third title in 1913, the Bears decline began, its roster raided by the Federal League, and eventually folded prior to the 1918 season.

Colorado had entries in various professional leagues in the first

four decades of the 1900s, but the area's national baseball notoriety centered on the Denver Post Baseball team, which ran for 32 years beginning in 1915. As well as introducing night baseball in 1931, four years before the Majors, the tournament took a step toward breaking down the racial barriers that were erected on the baseball field.



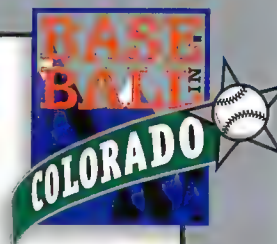
Don Larsen

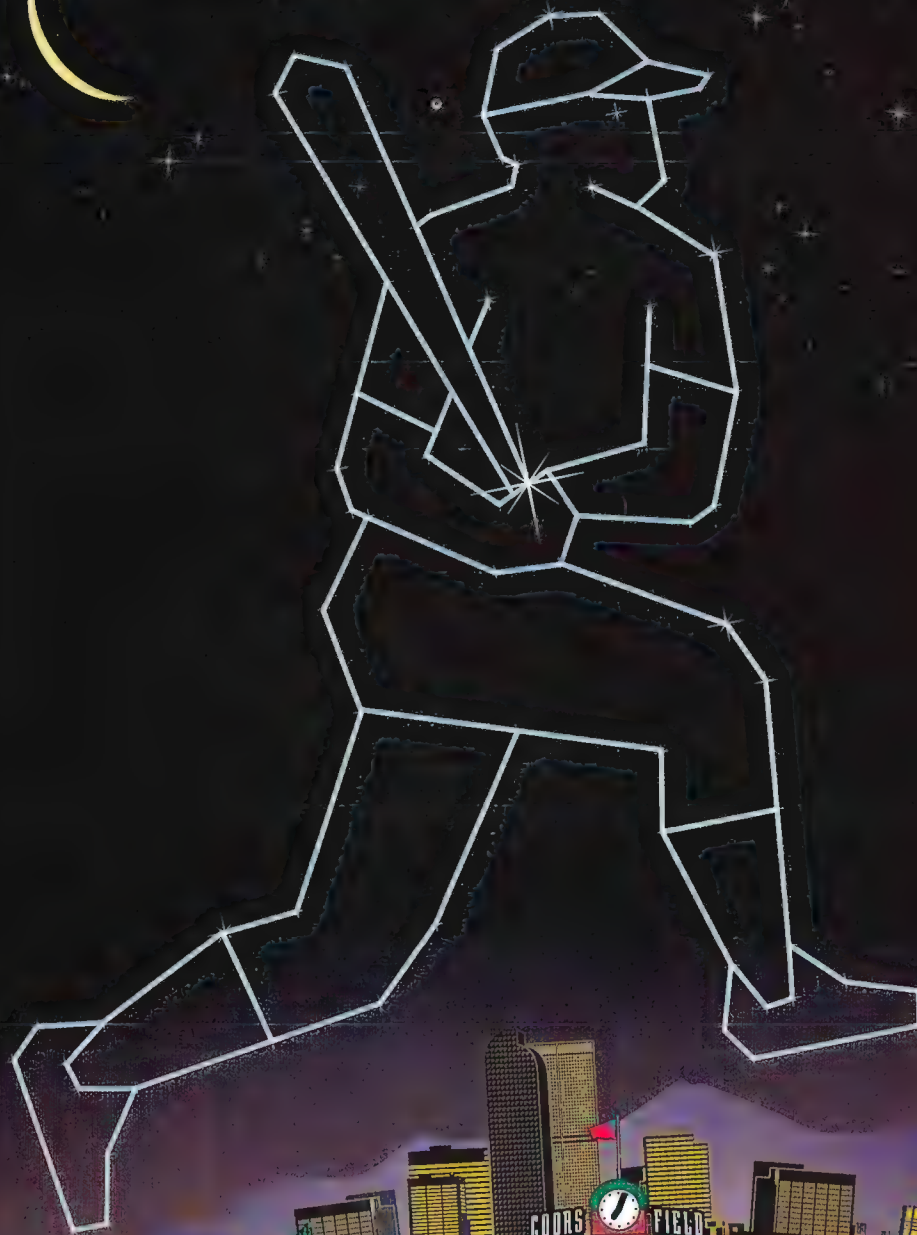
In 1934, the Kansas City Monarchs were invited to participate, the first time other than exhibitions that black and white teams played against each other. That year, the House of David, managed by Grover Cleveland Alexander, featured two African Americans—Cy Perkins and Satchel Paige. In 1936 a Negro League team organized by Pittsburgh Crawfords owner Gus Greenlee included Paige, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard and James Cool Papa Bell.

Baseball once again returned to Denver in 1947 with the Denver Bears coming out of hibernation to join the Class A Western League, and develop a working agreement with the Boston Braves.

Bob Howsam, who assumed control of the Bears from his father, brought Denver to the Triple-A level in 1955, purchasing the Kansas City Blues, who had been displaced

The 1936 Denver Post Baseball Tournament was captured by a Negro League All-Star team that included legends such as Satchel Paige (1), Josh Gibson (2), Buck Leonard (3) and Cool Papa Bell (4).





WHEN YOU'RE A MILE HIGH, YOU'RE CLOSER TO THE STARS.

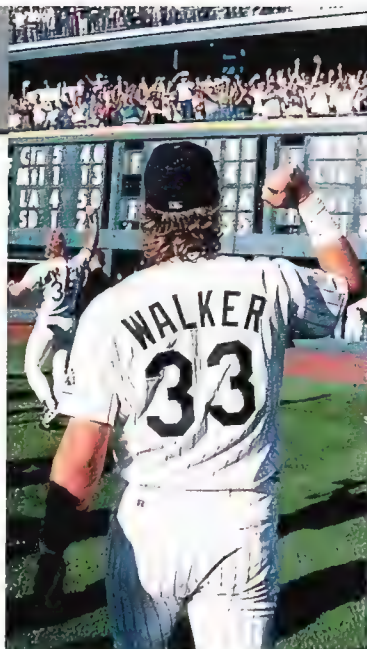


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by the move of the Athletics from Philadelphia to Kansas City. The four years that followed saw the likes of Don Larsen, Whitey Herzog, Bobby Richardson, Marv Thornberry, Tony Kubek and Ryen Duren pass through Denver. Duren became the first professional to throw a no-hitter in Denver.

With the folding of the Western League in 1958, Colorado Springs and Pueblo lost their professional teams, although the Sky Sox resurfaced as the Triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians in 1988 when David Elmore moved the Hawaii Islanders to Colorado. The Sky Sox have served in that capacity with the Rockies since 1993.

The American Association ran into similar problems and suspended operations after 1962, but the Bears survived. Gerald Phipps, who had purchased the team when Howsam headed to the Midwest to make a name for himself as the architect of Cincinnati's Big Red Machine, was



Walker and his teammates reached the Post Season after just three seasons.

able to transfer his team to the Pacific Coast League.

The Bears went through a series of affiliation changes. Over the years they had working agreements with the New York Yankees, Detroit Tigers, Milwaukee Braves, Minnesota Twins, Washington Senators/Texas Rangers, Houston Astros, Chicago White Sox, Montreal Expos, the Rangers again, Cincinnati Reds and, finally, Milwaukee once again.

It was during their affiliation with Montreal that the Bears helped reaffirm Denver's status as a strong baseball town. In a four-year period from 1980 to '83 the Bears drew 2.2 million fans to Mile High Stadium, thanks largely to the fine promotional efforts of Jim Burris, who Phipps lured from his dual presidency of the American

Association and Texas League to oversee the Bears in 1965.

The 1980 team, managed by Billy Gardner and featuring the likes of Tim Raines and Tim Wallach, set a Minor League attendance record of 562,214, the first of three consecutive seasons in which attendance surpassed a half million. In addition to Raines and Wallach, the Bears impressive alumni list includes such current and former stars Barry Larkin, Eric Davis, Cal Eldred, Gary Sheffield, Greg Vaughn, Andre Dawson, Chet Lemon, Pete Vuckovich and James Rodney Richard.

These players, and many more, were an important part of Denver's Minor League legacy. This rich history, tradition and enthusiasm for

baseball eventually paved the road for the city to reach the big leagues, a dream it seemed would never become a reality until the Rockies were finally admitted to



Mile High Stadium 1993 home opener

the National League in 1993. ♦

Tracy Ringolsby is a sportswriter for the Rocky Mountain News.

No Mountain Too High

At the age of 19, with a \$7,500 loan from his father, Jerry McMorris made his debut in the business world back in 1959. He bought Westway Motor Freight, a three-truck operation that ran between Denver and Golden, Colo., and built the company into NW Transport Service, Inc., the largest privately held carrier in the nation. According to McMorris, the company is also the largest privately owned employer in Colorado.

He is also the CEO of the Colorado Rockies, one of three managing partners along with brothers Charlie and Dick Monfort. McMorris stepped in when the Rockies original ownership group fell apart in August of 1992, and quickly earned the respect of baseball executives.

He has been appointed to the Executive Council of Major League Baseball (ownership's governing body) and the Player Relations Committee (ownership's bargaining arm), and is a member of the owners committee that works with Congress on issues involving the game.



"He is a hell of a businessman, no doubt about it," Rich Rodriguez, manager of RAC Transport, a competitor of NW Transport, said during McMorris' rise to control of the Rockies.

"He is hands-on. He gets in the middle of everything. He follows up. I've seen him in some of the smallest meetings. As a president of a company the size of NW, it surprised me. That's probably what makes his company work. He's very much involved."

While his general partnership in the Rockies came late, McMorris was the first businessman to commit money when Colorado Gov. Roy Romer began putting a group together to bid for an expansion team in Denver.

The biggest challenge for McMorris in his involvement with the Rockies has been his sudden public fame.

"I always had the theory that you can't harpoon a submerged whale," McMorris said. "That's changed."

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TAKE A TRIP BACK TO 1993 WITH FOUR PLAYERS, A MANAGER AND A GENERAL MANAGER WHO HAVE BEEN WITH COLORADO FROM THE START.

THEY CAME TO DENVER FROM ALL OVER MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND ITS farm systems. Some were former stars looking to recapture past glory. Some were solid backup players looking for regular jobs. Some were kids hoping to break out of the Minor Leagues and earn the right to play in the big leagues.

Some were Indians, some were Dukes. Some were Astros, some Paw Sox. There were Mariners, Cannons and Phillies, Braves, Giants and Toros, Tigers and Brewers. They all came together in 1993, and soon, regardless of their varied backgrounds, they all became Colorado Rockies. Forever.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ORIGINALS

Their shortstop was a youngster named Vinny Castilla, who had left a talent-heavy Braves organization with a dream of playing every day.

One of their top relievers was a righthanded kid named Curtis Leskanic, who came in from Minnesota's farm system with a determination to prove himself in the Major Leagues.

One of their starters was a young man named Kevin Ritz, who came from Detroit, only to discover he had an elbow problem that would require major surgery and keep him sidelined for a year. He later authored one of the great comeback stories in Rockies history.

Their right fielder was a kid with a ton of talent, Dante Bichette, who was obtained from the Milwaukee Brewers to help form the foundation of a fledgling club and help secure its future.

Together, Manager Don Baylor, those four players, their coaches and teammates made history as the Colorado Rockies opened for business on April 5, 1993, culminating decades of untiring effort by community leaders to bring Major League Baseball to the Rocky Mountains. They went on to write

BY TERRY JOHNSON



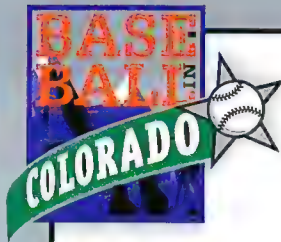
Vinny Castilla



Curtis Leskanic



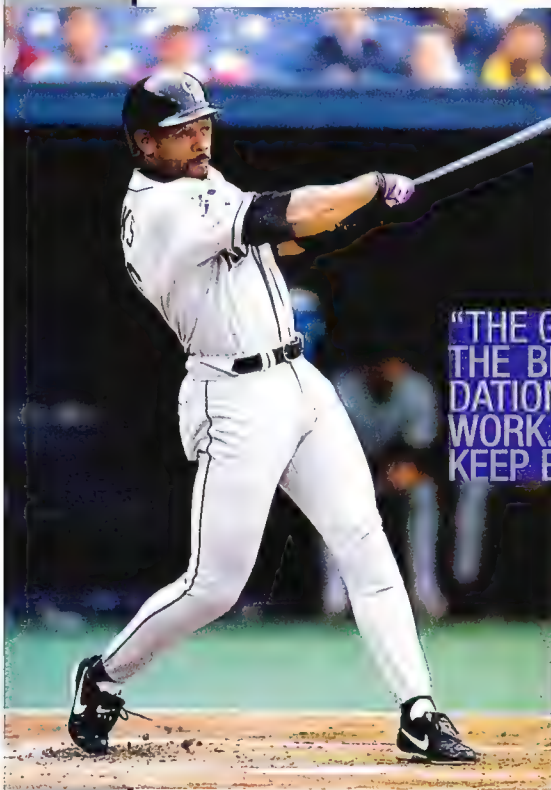
Kevin Ritz



one of the great stories in sports that season, supported by record-setting crowds never

seen before in professional sports.

"Guys like Dante, Curtis, Kevin and Vinny are the foundation of the franchise," says Andres Galarraga, the Rockies' original first baseman, now with Atlanta. "They've meant a lot to the franchise. They helped get it started and have kept it going."



"THE GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FROM THE BEGINNING... LAID A GREAT FOUNDATION. THEY DID ALL THE GROUNDWORK. IT'S UP TO THE REST OF US TO KEEP BUILDING UPON IT." — ELLIS BURKS

For those four players, the experience of being one of the original Rockies is unforgettable. Five years later, with the team a well established competitor in the National League Western Division, the memories are still strong.

"I don't think anyone who was a part of that first season could ever forget the experience," Castilla says. "To be part of that first team was something special. To still be a part of what the Rockies are doing is something really special. We were a bunch of guys from different backgrounds, but we came together very

quickly and became a team. We all wanted to make something great happen in Denver."

"That first year was a thrill; a real whirlwind year," Baylor recalls. "In my wildest dreams, I don't think I anticipated any of the excitement and everything that went on."

For Baylor, remembering that 1993 season is even easier because he still has four living reminders of that inaugural season, each of whom is still counted upon to contribute to the Rockies success.

Castilla, then 25, was one of many young players with talent, but with no opportunity to show it. He was part of a Braves organization that had not only rebuilt, but was loaded. The year before, Atlanta had overtaken the Dodgers to win the NL West title in the first year of a dynasty that's still going strong.

Despite having a solid year at Triple-A Richmond, Castilla's prospects of making the big club weren't bright because of the players ahead of him. So, when the Rockies made him their seventh pick in the second round of the 1992 expansion draft, Castilla saw a chance to play every day and help a new club get its feet on the ground.

"When I found out the Rockies had drafted me, I was very happy because I needed a change," Castilla says. "There weren't a lot of opportunities in Atlanta for someone like me to move up very quickly."

In his first full season of Major League duty, he split time at short-stop with Freddie Benavides. Although hobbled by an ankle sprain in May, Castilla played in 105 games, hitting .255 with nine home runs and 30 RBI. The Rockies went 67-95 and finished sixth in the division, but did far better than expect-

ed of an expansion team, thanks in part to Castilla's solid play at short.

"I remember a lot of things about that year, but mostly how we stuck together," he recalls. "Everybody expected us to lose 100 games, but we didn't because we hung tough."

Leskanic was also 25 when the Rockies took him out of the Twins' organization, selecting him seventh in the third round of the expansion draft. Like Castilla, he was looking for the opportunity to prove himself.

"I was over at my friend's house the day of the draft. Then my wife (Susan) called and said the Rockies had taken me," Leskanic says. "At first, I asked her, 'Really?' Then I got excited. The Twins already had some good pitchers on their staff and I knew there wasn't any chance for me, so to be taken by Colorado was very exciting."

"The first thing I remember about that year is going to Spring Training and not knowing anybody. It was kind of funny. The first couple weeks, we were all just looking around. But the game was played the same. We still had to get three outs an inning. Eventually, we got over all those feelings of newness."

Leskanic started the 1993 season on loan to Double-A Wichita, but made it to the Majors twice that season. He served notice with a solid seven-inning effort against San Francisco, and the 18 games he pitched in that season were enough to show the Rockies he was a "keeper." In turn, he credits the camaraderie that Rockies players developed quickly with helping his Major League career to get off the ground.

"The guys didn't know each other, but that didn't matter," he says. "I don't know what it's like on other clubs, but guys who have come here since have said they can't believe the camaraderie on this team."

"I think having Don as our manager is a big part of that. It's good to have a manager who always stresses





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The First Draft

Colorado's original draft strategy was so solid that Manager Don Baylor walked out of the draft room in New York with his Opening Day lineup penciled in.

"We had a certain type of player in mind when we put that first team together," says Baylor. "When we left that draft, the guys we had were the ones we talked about having in place for the starting assignment."

The Rockies chose 36 players off the rosters of the other 26 Major League clubs, selecting 21 pitchers, four catchers, seven infielders and four outfielders. They added outfielder Dante Bichette in a trade with Milwaukee for Kevin Reimer and righthander Rudy Seanez in a trade with Los Angeles for Jody Reed.

Here's a round-by-round look at Colorado's selections in the 1992 expansion draft:



Don Baylor

FIRST ROUND 1. David Nied, RHP (Atlanta). 2. Charlie Hayes, 3B (NY Yankees). 3. Darren Holmes, RHP (Milwaukee). 4. Jerald Clark, OF (San Diego). 5. Kevin Reimer, OF (Texas). 6. Eric Young, 2B (Los Angeles). 7. Jody Reed, 2B (Boston). 8. Scott Aldred, LHP (Detroit). 9. Alex Cole, OF (Pittsburgh). 10. Joe Girardi, C (Chicago Cubs). 11. Willie Blair, RHP (Houston). 12. Jayhawk Owens, C (Minnesota). 13. Andy Ashby, RHP (Philadelphia).

SECOND ROUND 1. Freddie Benavides, SS (Cincinnati). 2. Roberto Mejia, 2B (Los Angeles). 3. Doug Bochtler, RHP (Montreal). 4. Lance Painter, LHP (San Diego). 5. Butch Henry, RHP (Houston). 6. Ryan Hawblitzel, RHP (Chicago Cubs). 7. Vinny Castilla, SS (Atlanta). 8. Brett Merriman, RHP (California). 9. Jim Tatum, 3B-1B (Milwaukee). 10. Kevin Ritz, RHP (Detroit). 11. Eric Wedge, C (Boston). 12. Keith Shepherd, RHP (Philadelphia). 13. Calvin Jones, RHP (Seattle).

THIRD ROUND 1. Brad Ausmus, C (NY Yankees). 2. Marcus Moore, RHP (Toronto). 3. Armando Reynoso, RHP (Atlanta). 4. Steve Reed, RHP (San Francisco). 5. Mo Sanford, RHP (Cincinnati). 6. Pedro Castellano, 3B (Chicago Cubs). 7. Curtis Leskanic, RHP (Minnesota). 8. Scott Fredrickson, RHP (San Diego). 9. Braulio Castillo, OF (Philadelphia). 10. Denis Boucher, RHP (Cleveland).

getting along and working together."

The Rockies knew Ritz had talent when they made him the 10th pick in the second round of the draft, but they had to wait to see it. His '96 season with Detroit was cut short by elbow tendinitis. The following spring, he came to camp with the Rockies, but had further arm trouble and wound up undergoing reconstructive surgery on his right elbow, and missed the whole year.

"That was a tough time," Ritz admits. "It was tough not being able to play, but I had to be patient and work hard to get back."

"One reason why this club became a contender so quickly is the fan support. The Colorado fans do a great job of getting you up for games."

Bichette, the fourth original Rockie left on the active roster, was

"We had a very short time to put our organization together," Gebhard says. "We had to get ready for the June draft and

we only had 10 scouts working for us at the time. We didn't have the chance to go look at as many players as we wanted to. We looked at character and makeup, as well as talent.

"We were fortunate to come out of expansion draft with the 36 players we did. We've been fortunate to have Don Baylor."

Along the way, Gebhard's had the opportunity to watch the players develop the way he hoped they would.

Bichette has been a major force with his power and ability to drive in runs. Leskanic has developed into a solid reliever. Ritz overcame his arm



"THE FIRST THING I REMEMBER ABOUT THAT YEAR IS GOING TO SPRING TRAINING AND NOT KNOWING ANYBODY. IT WAS KIND OF FUNNY. THE FIRST COUPLE WEEKS, WE WERE ALL JUST LOOKING AROUND." — CURTIS LESKANIC

obtained in a draft-day trade with Milwaukee. The 29-year-old had already established himself with the Angels and Brewers, and was counted to be one of the Rockies' leaders. Bichette rose to the challenge, hitting .310 with 21 home runs and 89 RBI, and has since become one of the league's better power hitters.

"It's been fun to be part of this franchise since the first season," Bichette says. "We didn't win as many games as we wanted to that first year, but we all made the commitment to building a winner."

Rockies executive vice president and general manager Bob Gebhard had a definite plan when he guided the formation of the first ballclub. He wanted players who possessed talent, would work well together and would dedicate themselves to building a strong franchise.

problems to win a career-high 17 games in 1996. And Castilla developed surprising power, hitting 40 home runs each in 1996 and '97.

"The guys who have been here from the beginning are a big reason why this club became competitive so quickly," says outfielder Ellis Burks. "They laid a great foundation. They did all the groundwork. It's up to the rest of us to keep building upon it."

As it is, the experience has been treasured by those who joined the first group of "guys who didn't know each other" and stuck around.

"Being part of building a franchise here has been a great experience," Leskanic says. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd do it the same way. I think all of us would." ♦

Terry Johnson is a freelance baseball writer based in Stevenson Ranch, Calif.





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BOMBS AWAY



BRANDON SIMMONS POUNDS HIS fist into his glove, shifts his weight from side to side beyond the outfield fence and stares intently toward home plate as Colorado Rockies slugger Larry Walker steps into the batter's box at Coors Field. Simmons is ready to move. Ready to chase down any ball hit his way in deep, deep center field as Atlanta ace Greg Maddux winds up and delivers the pitch.

IF YOU ENJOY MIND-BOGGLING DISPLAYS OF OFFENSE, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN COORS FIELD, WHERE THE BLAKE STREET BOMBERS REGULARLY LIGHT UP THE SKY.

BY GARY KLEIN

Walker unleashes the swing that won him the 1997 National League MVP Award and...fouls the pitch back to the screen. Simmons and more than 50,000 other Colorado fans collectively exhale.

"The Rockies really swing the bat hard and the ball could come flying way up here," says Simmons, 10, who is positioned about 600 feet from the plate in one of the top rows of the "Rockpile"

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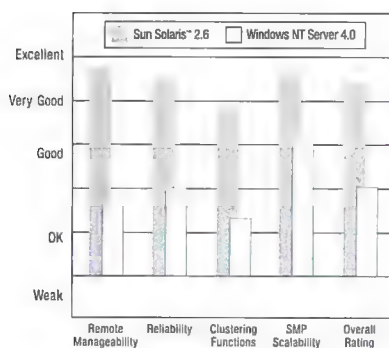
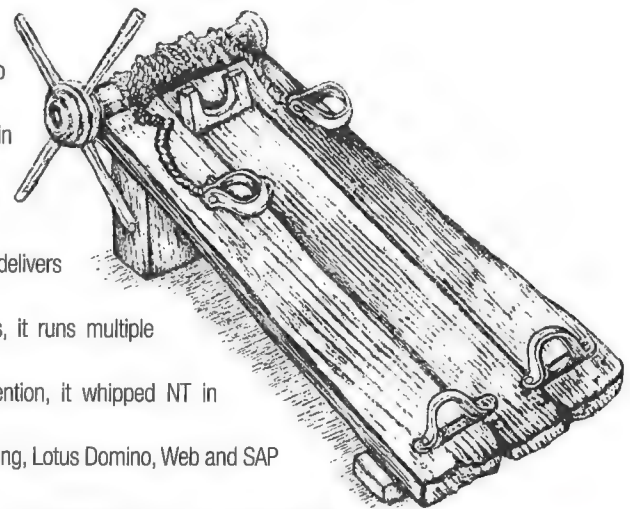
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Galarraga captured NL RBI crowns in '96 and '97 as a Blake Street Bomber.



home game. Lead-off hitter Eric Young wasted no time introducing the long ball to Rockies fans when he homered in the bottom of the first inning against the Montreal Expos. Fans have been coming in droves ever since. So have home runs—especially since the team moved to Coors Field in 1995.

New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza holds the Coors Field record for longest home run, with a 496-foot shot last season. But it's the Rockies who do the most damage.

"These guys really understand how to hit in this ballpark," says pitcher Darryl Kile, who surprised the baseball world when he signed with the Rockies before this season after going 19-7 with a 2.57 earned-run average for the Houston Astros in 1997. "They're real patient at the plate and wait for you to make a mistake. When you make one, they don't miss it very often.

"With most teams, you pick a guy or two out of the lineup that you're not going to let beat you. When I was pitching against them, they had four or five guys in a row that could leave the ballpark to any field and at

any time. That made it tough."

Back in August of 1990, when voters approved a 0.1 percent sales tax to finance construction of a new stadium if the city

was awarded a franchise, most anticipated that the stadium would become a home run haven.

On Oct. 16, 1992, ground-breaking took place for the structure designed by HOK Sport of Kansas City, Mo. Bichette christened the ballpark two-and-a-half years later when he hit a 14th-inning, three-run homer that gave the Rockies an 11-9 victory over the New York Mets on Opening Day, 1995.

bleacher section of the stadium. "That's why I brought my glove. I haven't seen them do it, but I have faith in the Blake Street Bombers that they can."

With good reason. When it comes to the Blake Street Bombers, nearly anything is possible. Consider:

- Last season, the Rockies hit a National League record 239 homers and produced the NL home run champion for the third year in a row.

- The Rockies are the only franchise in history to have four players hit 30 or more homers in a season three times.

- The Rockies are the only club to have three players hit 40 or more homers twice.

It's no wonder the team's mascot—a mostly purple dinosaur—is named Dinger.

"This is definitely a hitters park," says Rockies manager Don Baylor, who belted 338 homers during a 19-year Major League career that ended in 1988. "And when you have players that can swing the bat like some of these guys, well, there are some things that happen here that have never been seen before."

Ever since Major League Baseball

and the Rockies officially arrived in Denver in 1993, baseball fans in Colorado have been treated to a host of firsts, including this week's 69th annual All-Star Game. And since moving from Mile High Stadium to Coors Field at the corner of Blake and 20th Streets in 1995, the Rockies faithful have mostly been treated to a barrage of home-run hitting courtesy of players like Walker, Dante Bichette, Vinny Castilla, Ellis Burks and Andres Galarraga.

The sluggers and their fans have a mutual admiration society.

"Before that first season in 1993, we were told in Spring Training that we would have a great fan following," Bichette says. "That was an understatement. When we got here, the sky was the limit as far as producing and being loved by the fans. I think it's gone beyond everyone's dreams."

Indeed. The Rockies set an MLB attendance record in 1993 drawing 4,483,350 fans to Mile High Stadium, including 80,227 for their first

"AS A HITTER YOU WOULD BE A FOOL NOT TO ENJOY COMING HERE... BUT I WOULDN'T GIVE ALL THE CREDIT TO THE ALTITUDE BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE TO BE PATIENT AT THE PLATE." — ELLIS BURKS



Thus began the popular legend of the Blake Street Bombers. Several individuals

have laid claim to originating the name, but Bichette said it was born in the Rockies clubhouse right in front of his locker.

"After a game, someone said something like, 'You guys are the Blake Street Bashers,'" Bichette recalls. "I said 'What about Blake Street Bombers?' I've gotten credit for it and some other people take credit. All I know is, I'm really happy to be a part of it."

For several years the Blake Street Bombers were led by Galarraga, who won the NL batting title in 1993, the home run and RBI title in 1996 and the RBI title in 1997.

"I enjoyed every single year with the Rockies," says Galarraga, now with the Atlanta Braves. "The fans helped a lot. It seemed like there were 50,000 at Coors Field every time we played. It didn't matter what the weather was like and it didn't matter what day it was or what time the game was at. There were still 50,000. You have to play 100 percent when you get that kind of crowd."

Galarraga said the esprit de corps among the Blake Street Bombers helped produce the team's prodigious power numbers.

"Every year at Spring Training, we'd start playing around, saying, 'Who's going to be the last one to hit 30 homers?'" he recalls. "It was positive pressure that helped everybody. We all pushed each other."

Even without Galarraga, Colorado began the '98 season boasting one of the most formidable power-hitting lineups in baseball. The hot quartet of Burks, Bichette, Castilla

"I'M NOT A ONE-YEAR WONDER. PART OF THE SUCCESS IS FROM BEING A MEMBER OF THE BLAKE STREET BOMBERS. HITTING IS CONTAGIOUS. WHEN EVERYBODY IS PUMPED UP, YOU GET IT GOING." — VINNY CASTILLA



Colorado hit Expansion Draft paydirt when it nabbed Castilla in the second round.

and Walker are carrying on the name of the Blake Street Bombers.

Bichette and Castilla are original Rockies, but their paths to becoming Bombers was markedly different.

Bichette, 34, was traded from Milwaukee to the Rockies in November 1992 for Kevin Reimer after playing three full Major League seasons and parts of two others in the California Angels and Milwaukee Brewers organizations.

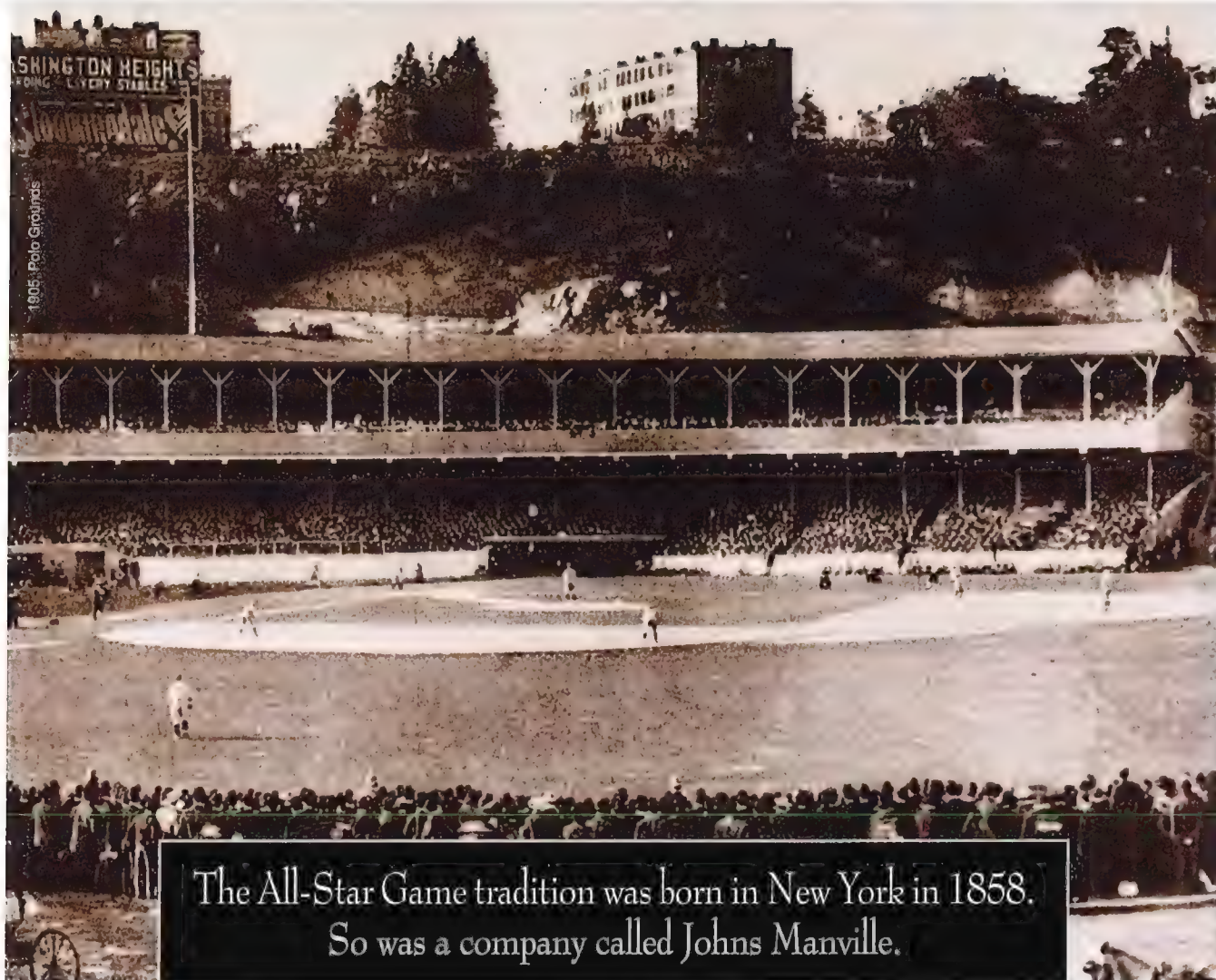
The 6-foot-3-inch, 228-pounder quickly endeared himself to baseball-mad Colorodans by hitting the first regular-season homer in club history, against Bret Saberhagen on April 7, 1993. Despite missing the final 21 games of that season, Bichette still batted .310, while hitting 21 home runs and knocking in 89 runs.

The next year he represented the Rockies at the All-Star Game and finished the season hitting .304 with 27 home runs and 95 RBI, a mere warm-up for the move to Coors Field the following season.

In 1995, he made the All-Star team and finished second behind Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin in the MVP balloting, after batting .340 with a league-leading 40 homers and 128 RBI. He was an All-Star Game starter in 1996, a season in which he hit .313 with 141 RBI and joined the 30-30 club for the first time by slugging 31 homers and stealing 31 bases. And last season, he hit 26 homers while batting above .300 for a fifth consecutive year.

"When you're part of a lineup that can bust out five or six runs just like that, how can baseball not be fun?" Bichette says.

Castilla, who turned 31 on July 4, was selected from the Atlanta Braves as the seventh pick in the second round of the Expansion Draft in



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November of 1992. The Mexican native was a light-hitting middle infielder who had only 21 Major League games under his belt when he reported to Spring Training with the Rockies in 1993.

"The best thing that could have happened to me was to get drafted by this team because they gave me a chance," Castilla says.

During the Rockies' inaugural year, Castilla weighed about 175 pounds and platooned at shortstop. He played in 105 games and hit .255 with nine dingers and 30 ribbies in 337 at-bats. In 1994, he started the year in the Majors, was optioned to Triple-A and returned to the big leagues on June 4 for the rest of the season. He played shortstop, second base, third base and first base and batted .331 in 130 at-bats.

He looked like he might have a nice career as a utilityman. But a funny thing happened during the not-so-funny strike of 1994. The Rockies asked Castilla to go to the Instructional League to learn to play third base full-time. Castilla agreed, and he continued the tutorial during winter ball.

"When I showed up in Spring Training, they said I had a good chance to play third and to go out and work hard," Castilla recalls. "So, that's what I did."

The 1995 season was a breakthrough year for Castilla. He started at third base in the All-Star Game because of an injury to San Francisco's Matt Williams, finished the year hitting .309 with 32 home runs and 90 RBI, and led the team with six multi-homer games.

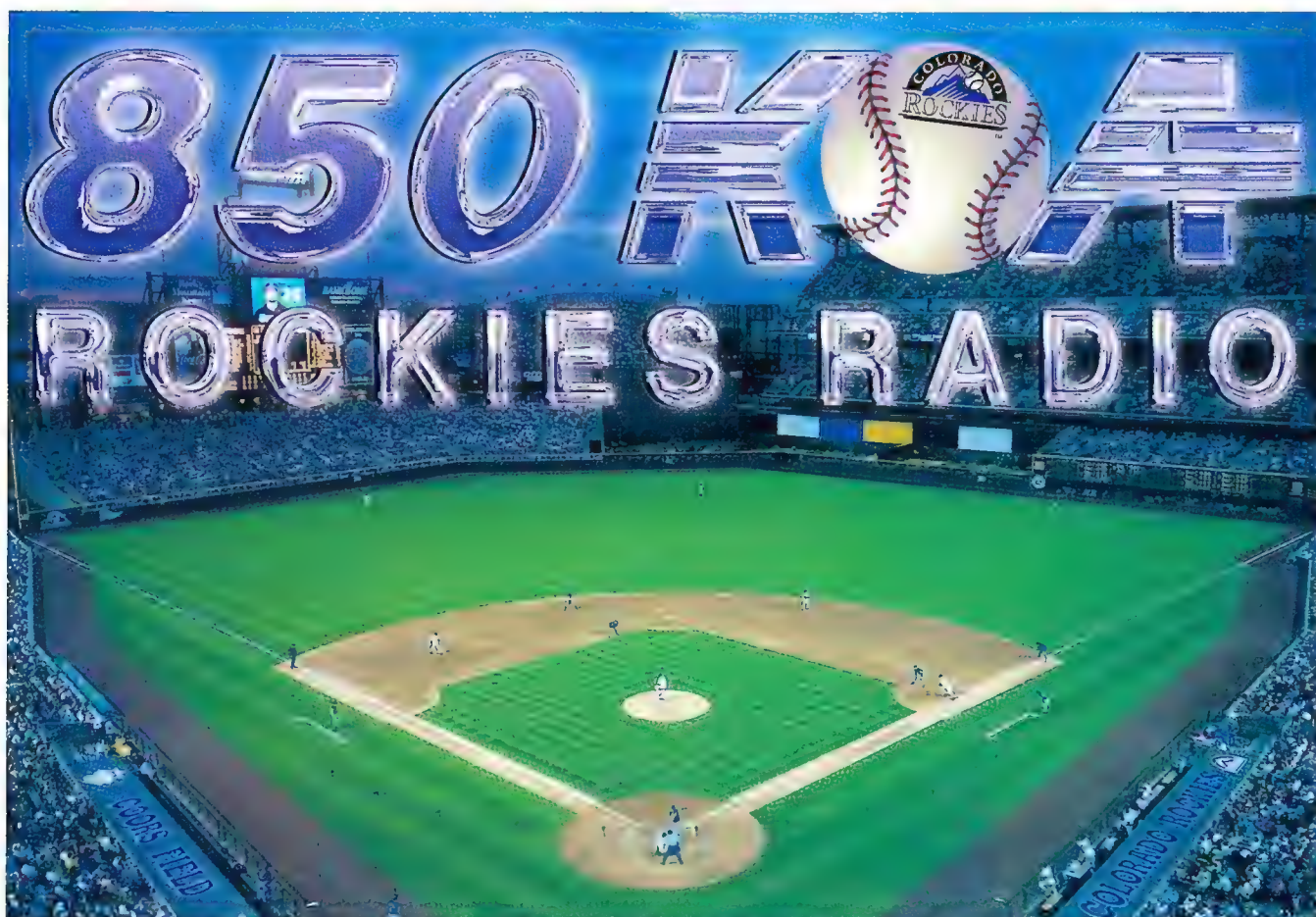
"Third base is a position where you need to produce with the bat," says the 6-foot-1-inch star who now weighs 200 pounds. "I've always had

power, but not the power I have now. I've lifted weights and done a lot of work in the gym to get stronger. Also, playing every day allows you to adjust and work on the weak points in your game."

In 1996, Castilla elevated his game even more, batting .304 with 40 homers and 113 RBI. Forty homers? It was a fluke, some critics said. There was no way Castilla could duplicate those numbers. But he did, incredibly hitting an identical .304-40-113 the next year.

"I'm not a one-year wonder," Castilla says, with a laugh. "I'm starting to get more credit because I do it every year. Part of the success is from being a member of the Blake Street Bombers. Hitting is contagious. When everybody is pumped up, you get it going."

That's what outfielder Ellis Burks discovered when he signed as a free agent with the Rockies in November 1993, after six seasons with the



WAYNE HAGIN AND JEFF KINGERY. THE VOICES OF SUMMER. EST. 1993

Boston Red Sox and one with the Chicago White Sox.

"The last couple of years, the lineup has probably been pretty close to the equivalent of what we had in Boston with guys like Jim Rice, Dwight Evans and Tony Armas and all those bombers," Burks said. "With the Rockies, we definitely have some guys who can put up the power numbers."

Burks showed he was one of them in his first National League at-bat at Mile High Stadium when he hit a homer against Philadelphia's Curt Schilling. He was named the NL player of the month for April 1994, but hurt his wrist in mid-May and played in only 42 games. Offseason surgery slowed him in 1995, and he batted just .266 in 103 games.

The 1996 season was a career year for Burks in every sense of the word. He hit .344 clobbered 40 home runs, tallied 128 RBI and led the league in runs (142), slugging

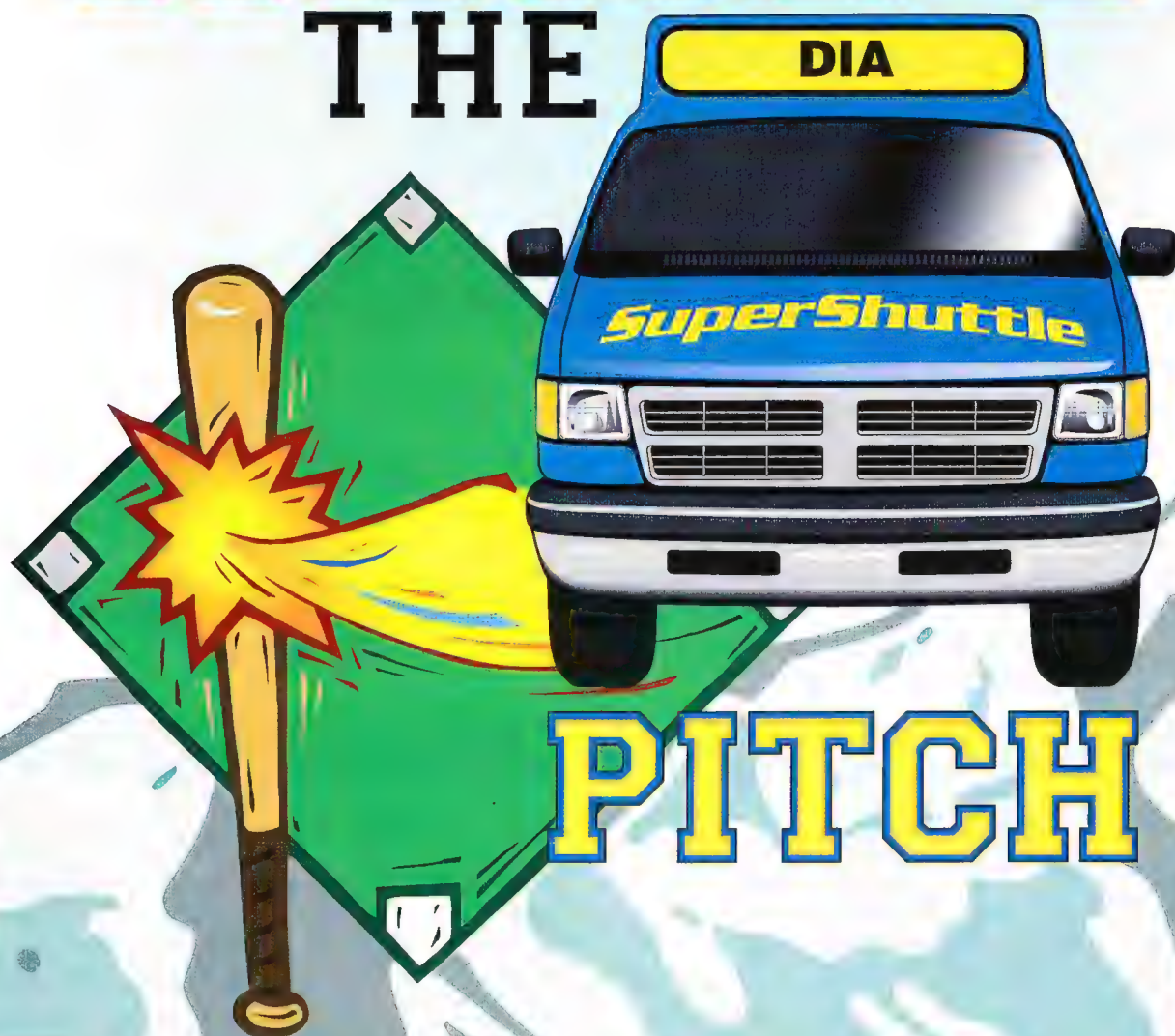


Bichette's consistent bat-work has produced five consecutive .300-plus seasons.

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"The number one reason I signed with the Rockies is because the fans in this city are better than any other city in baseball for their support," says Walker, the first native Canadian to win a league MVP award. "As a visitor coming in with the Expos, it was fun to play here."

Inspired by the fans, and the new ballpark, Walker hit .306 and set career highs with 36 homers and 101 RBI in 1995. He missed 60 games because of a broken clavicle in 1996, but came back with one of the best seasons in baseball history in 1997.

He led the league in homers with 49, finished second in batting average at .366 and third in RBI with 130. He came within four hits and 10 RBI of winning the league's first Triple Crown in 60 years. He also nabbed 33 bases, joining Burks and Aaron as the only players to post 40 homers, 200 hits and 30 stolen bases in a season. His 409 total bases were the most since Stan Musial's 429 in 1948. Oh yeah. He also won his third Gold Glove Award.

"What Larry did last year was incredible," Bichette says. "Amazing."

"This is a team game," adds Walker. "Everybody has to go out and work together. We're a family and everyone is playing for the same thing. Nobody is trying to out-do anyone on an individual standard. When you're playing in that kind of atmosphere, anything is possible."

Which brings us back to 10-year-old Brandon Simmons.

Walker will not homer on this night against the Braves, but Simmons is certain that one of the Blake Street Bombers will one day hit a bomb that lands in the top row of the Rockpile.

"And when they do," Simmons says. "I'm going to be here with my glove to catch it." ♦

Gary Klein is a freelance baseball writer based in Los Angeles, Calif.



Walker's 1997 MVP season was an achievement most players can only dream about.

percentage (.639), extra-base hits (211) and doubles (45). He became only the second player to collect 40 homers, 200 hits and 30 stolen bases, joining Hank Aaron, who achieved the feat for the Milwaukee Braves in 1963.

"I'm not going to lie, I was sur-

prised I hit 40 homers," says Burks, whose previous high was 21 in 1990. "I just had a great year. It put me on another level. It showed me I could compete at any level with any other person in the big leagues.

"As a hitter, you would be a fool not to enjoy coming here, and having an opportunity on an everyday basis is definitely going to help you in some sense," adds the 33-year-old veteran. "But I wouldn't give all the credit to the altitude because you still have to be patient at the plate.

"The thing about this team is that anyone at any given time can carry the club. If we all come together at the same time, that's when you're really going to see some fireworks."

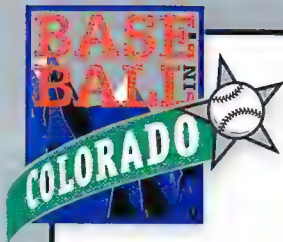
Walker, 31, has provided offensive explosiveness and outstanding defense since signing with the Rockies as a free agent in 1995, after five Major League seasons with the Montreal Expos.

Murderer's Row West

Prior to 1995, only the 1977 Dodgers had ever seen four of its players each hit 30 home runs during the same season. Colorado has accomplished this feat in each of the past three seasons, with Larry Walker (49) leading the '97 bash parade, followed by Andres Galaraga (41), Vinny Castilla (40) and Ellis Burks (32). The Rockies have spent their six-year history redefining the game's concept of offense, which extends well beyond home run hitting, as noted by the following chart.

	1995		1996		1997	
	NL AVG.	ROCKIES	NL AVG.	ROCKIES	NL AVG.	ROCKIES
Avg.	.263	.282	.262	.287	.263	.288
Runs	666	785	759	961	746	923
Hits	1,299	1,406	1,457	1,607	1,450	1,611
2B	241	259	270	297	279	269
3B	30	43	31	37	35	40
HR	137	200	159	221	155	239
RBI	625	749	713	909	705	869

*Boldface indicates league leading



SKY WALKER

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: Growing up in Canada with a hockey background, how did you become involved in baseball? What, if any, are the similarities between the two sports?

LARRY WALKER: I guess I wasn't all that good at hockey so baseball kind of found me. I started playing the game after high school and enjoyed it, and my baseball career kind of took off from there. I was a goaltender in hockey and the only similarity I can see is that hand-eye coordination has to exist in both sports.

MLB: Nevertheless, it's said you play baseball with a hockey mentality. Explain this.

LW: I grew up playing the game for 10 years. I fought a couple times as a goalie. I whacked people on the legs with my stick when they came in the crease. I guess in a similar way, I'd run into a wall to try to catch a fly ball or I'd try to knock the shortstop into left field to break up a double play. I'm not afraid to go into the corners. There's a mental toughness in hockey, too, that I've tried to take into baseball. I've been hit on the head with a baseball, got up and kept on playing. I think hockey players are a little cuckoo...getting 50 stitches and coming back out to play 20 minutes later. I'd like to do the same thing, though.

SINCE CAPTURING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD LAST SEASON, COLORADO'S LARRY WALKER IS THE KING OF THE ROCKIES.

MLB: Did you have a baseball hero while growing up in Canada?

LW: I was more of a hockey fan. There are a lot of players I admire now, like Tony Gwynn. He's one of the nicest guys in the game. He knows baseball inside and out. He's one of the game's real superstars. I watch a lot of players and I try to pick up little things from them.

MLB: What convinced you to sign with Colorado as a free agent following the 1994 season?

LW: The fans. I saw the support they'd give the Rockies when I came here with Montreal. I saw 70,000 people a game in Mile High stadium. They're behind all their teams in this city. It's the greatest sports town in the United States.

Talk about entering rarefied air. Colorado's 31-year-old right fielder capped off an historic season that compares favorably among the finest in league history. Walker is the first Rockie and native-born Canadian to win the National League's MVP Award, and he accomplished the feat hands down, receiving 22 of 28 possible first-place votes and 359 points—96 more than his closest competitor—in 1997.

The sweet-swinging from Maple Ridge, British Columbia, came within four hits and 10 RBI of winning the first Triple Crown in 60 years. Walker put his 6-foot-3-inch, 235-pound frame to excellent use, leading the league with 49 home runs, ranking second with a .366 batting average and finishing third in RBI with 130. He also topped the league with an astronomical .720 slugging percentage—fifth-highest in NL history—and became one of only 14 players in Major League history to record more than 400 total bases in a season. For good measure, he received the league's Silver Slugger for offensive excellence at his position.

The passion and intensity he displays toward achieving excellence in baseball were born on the frozen ponds and ice rinks north of the U.S. border where, not surprisingly, he grew up playing hockey. (He's equally passionate about the number three, which he uses continually during games in ways that are a closely guarded secret.) Funny, friendly and forthright, Walker's zest for life and playing baseball have carried over into Denver, where he has grown to love the fans in Colorado as much as they've grown to love him.

This year, having recovered from offseason elbow surgery, Walker is leading the Rockies on a mission that has thus far eluded the team—a division championship. Recently, he sat down to discuss his career, his passions and what he would like to achieve as a Rockie.

BY TERRY JOHNSON



CARLUCCI/MLB PHOTOS





JULY

Mon 7/13 vs. San Diego 7:00pm
Wed 7/15 vs. San Diego 7:00pm
Mon 7/20 @ Houston 6:00pm
Tue 7/21 @ Houston 6:00pm
Wed 7/22 vs. Cincinnati 7:00pm
Mon 7/27 vs. Pittsburgh 7:00pm
Tue 7/28 vs. Pittsburgh 7:00pm
Wed 7/29 vs. Pittsburgh 7:00pm

AUGUST

Mon 8/3 @ Pittsburgh 5:00pm
Tue 8/4 @ Pittsburgh 5:00pm

Wed 8/5 @ Pittsburgh 5:00pm
Mon 8/10 vs. Montreal 7:00pm
Tue 8/11 vs. Montreal 7:00pm
Wed 8/12 vs. Montreal 7:00pm
Tue 8/18 @ New York 5:30pm
Wed 8/19 @ New York 5:30pm
Mon 8/24 @ Philadelphia 5:30pm
Tue 8/25 vs. Milwaukee 7:00pm
Wed 8/26 vs. Milwaukee 7:00pm

SEPTEMBER

Tue 9/8 vs. Florida 7:00pm

Wed 9/9 vs. Florida 7:00pm
Mon 9/14 @ Los Angeles 8:00pm
Tue 9/15 @ Los Angeles 8:00pm
Wed 9/16 @ Los Angeles 8:30pm
Tue 9/22 vs. Arizona 6:00pm
Wed 9/23 vs. Arizona 6:00pm

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MLB: Did it surprise you that the Rockies, a recent expansion team, had so much success early?

LW: No. Again, you go back to the fans. When you get support like the Rockies get, you can't help but

do well. The fans inspire you to do your best all the time. Along with that, ownership is very serious about being competitive and is very willing to put a good team on the field. Indirectly, it goes back to the support the team has received from the fans and the city.

MLB: What are your fondest memories of the 1997 season and winning a National League MVP Award?

LW: I don't really go back and look at past seasons, although I probably will after I'm through playing. It was a good season for me personally, but it was a bad one for the team because we didn't make the playoffs. Our focus this year is to improve on that and get back into the Post Season. I was very pleased, though, when the Rockies honored me before a game in April. They gave me a watch and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. They said to look out at the left-field fence. It opened up and I thought I was getting Dinger (the Rockies' mascot) because he was the first thing to come out! Then the bike followed and I was shocked. It was an incredible gesture by the team.

MLB: What were the toughest things you had to overcome down the stretch last season with the added pressure of trying to make the playoffs and compete for a major award?

LW: I don't think there was anything tough about it. I treat every game like it's Opening Day or late in the year. I play every game the same way. I don't believe

in pressure from the outside. The only pressure is what you put on yourself.

Walking Tall

Most players can only dream of putting up the offensive numbers that Walker posted during his 1997 NL MVP run and of earning a Gold Glove Award. Here's a quick rundown of his production last season, all of which were career bests, followed by his league ranking in each category:

Batting Average: .366 (2nd)

Hits: 208 (2nd)

Home Runs: 49 (1st)

Runs Batted In: 130 (3rd)

Slugging Percentage: .720 (1st)

Stolen Bases: 33 (8th)

MLB: What are you striving to achieve this season?

LW: Personally, to stay healthy. My overall goal is to put a World Series ring on my finger.

MLB: To what degree are the Rockies helped by playing half their games in the thin air of Denver? Or is that a myth?

LW: It's not a myth, but it's not a big factor. People who may think we're

"PEOPLE WHO MAY THINK [THE ROCKIES ARE] ONLY A GOOD OFFENSIVE TEAM AT HOME ARE WRONG. GUYS WHO CAN HIT, CAN HIT, NO MATTER WHERE THEY'RE PLAYING."

only a good offensive team at home are wrong. Guys who can hit, can hit, no matter where they're playing. We have guys who can hit on this team. Eventually,

I think everybody will stop talking about the "Coors Field advantage" because there really isn't one.

MLB: Do you alter your batting style when you play at Coors Field?

LW: No. I have the same swing all the time. I don't change it from ballpark to ballpark, whether we're playing at Wrigley Field or Dodger Stadium.

MLB: What criteria do you use in selecting the size, weight and shape of your bat?

LW: I don't use anything specific. I remember one time I was struggling with the bat I was using in Montreal and I borrowed a bat from (then Expos infielder) Spike Owen. The bat felt good in my hands, I tried it and I had some success, so I kept on using it. I pretty much use whatever feels comfortable in my hands.

MLB: Who's had the greatest influence on your hitting success?

LW: There's no single person. Numerous players and coaches have had an effect on me over the years. Ralph Rowe, a hitting coach in my first couple of years, gave me a simple philosophy: see the ball, hit the ball, hit



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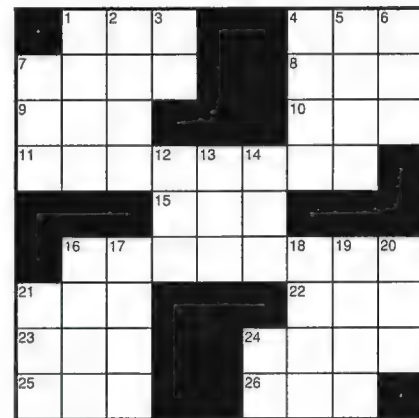
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ACROSS

1. See logo
4. Curtsy
7. Piece
8. Honest ____
9. Alias; abbr.
10. Tennis shot
11. Count on
15. Pair
16. NT - not!
21. Mister
22. Server need
23. Little bit
24. Dress edges
25. Stitch
26. Serious software

DOWN

1. For Pete's ____!
2. Eurasian range
3. Not there; abbr.
4. ____ & chain
5. Clarinet's kin
6. Net subset
7. Golfer's goal
12. Give ____ rest!
13. Hole punch
14. Snake that hugs
16. Trig function
17. Mates
18. ____ rabbit
19. Genie's home
20. Double curve
21. Help
24. This guy



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home runs. I try to use the old George Brett theory: try to hit the ball hard, not far. I've learned a lot from the people around me and from watching other players hit. Basically, I don't think about it too much when I'm at the plate. I just grab the bat and hit.

MLB: Who has had the most influence on your career?

LW: My family. In particular, my mother and father, Larry and Mary, plus my brothers, Gary, Cary and Barry. Having them around has always meant a lot to me. They've supported me in everything I've tried to do. They're No. 1.

MLB: How has playing for Felipe Alou in Montreal and Don Baylor in Colorado helped your career?

LW: When I'm done playing, that's something I can really sit back and look upon. It's been a great honor to play for both of them. If I ever become a manager or a coach, I will definitely take some of their ideas and use them. They're both good men. They know the game and how to teach playing baseball. They treat you with respect. Each one has done a lot to get me where I am today.

MLB: Have you become a role model for younger players?

LW: I don't know if I qualify as a role model. I enjoy it when a young guy asks me questions. If I see something during a game, I might say something to a young guy; offer him a little advice. But I don't force myself on anybody. When I was coming up, I had a lot of older guys help me. Now I just try to pass some of that on.

MLB: You've donated a lot of money to the team's youth field refurbishing program. What is the greatest satisfaction you derive from your charitable work?

LW: It's seeing a smile on a kid's face. Helping a child

brings a very satisfying feeling. I enjoy helping kids get the chance to play baseball. Nothing beats seeing their smiles.

MLB: You have a series of rituals that involve the number three, such as setting your clock for 8:03, wearing the No. 33, and the number of swings you take on-deck. How did you develop your penchant for this number?

LW: It's just superstition, I guess. I just do certain things. Everybody has kind of quirks or ritual. Mine is the No. 3. It works for me. It gets me by.

MLB: Which part of the sequence of 3s is most important?

LW: I can't really tell you because it's a secret. It's something I have to keep secret or it's not going to work. I have to keep it to myself for security reasons.

MLB: Where do you see the game headed in the future?

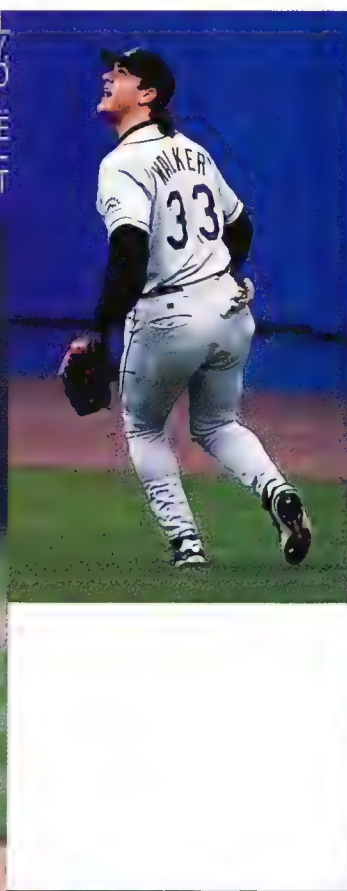
LW: Hopefully, nowhere but up. We've been trying to fight our way back from the strike year (1994). It's been tough for the owners and the players, but we've made some strides. Hopefully, we can find ways to work together and keep baseball headed in the right direction. ♦

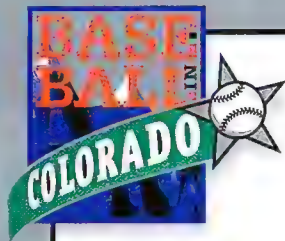
Terry Johnson is a freelance baseball writer based in Stevenson Ranch, Calif.



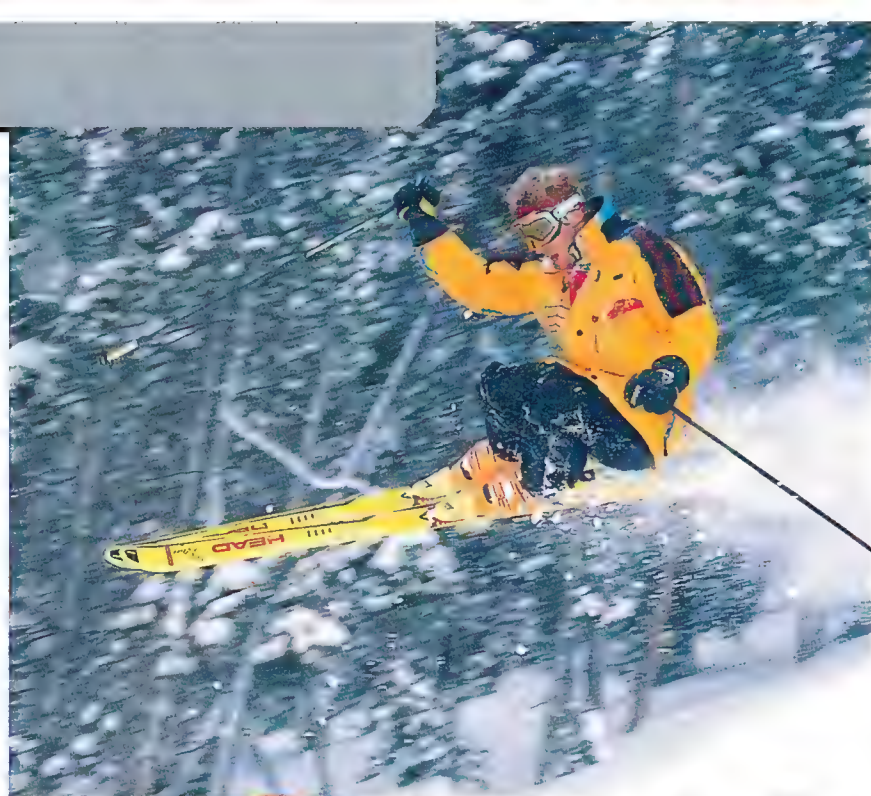
SALAZAR/MLB PHOTOS; PILLING/MLB PHOTOS (INSET)

"THERE'S A MENTAL TOUGHNESS IN HOCKEY, TOO, THAT I'VE TRIED TO TAKE INTO BASEBALL. I'VE BEEN HIT ON THE HEAD WITH A BASEBALL, GOT UP AND KEPT ON PLAYING."



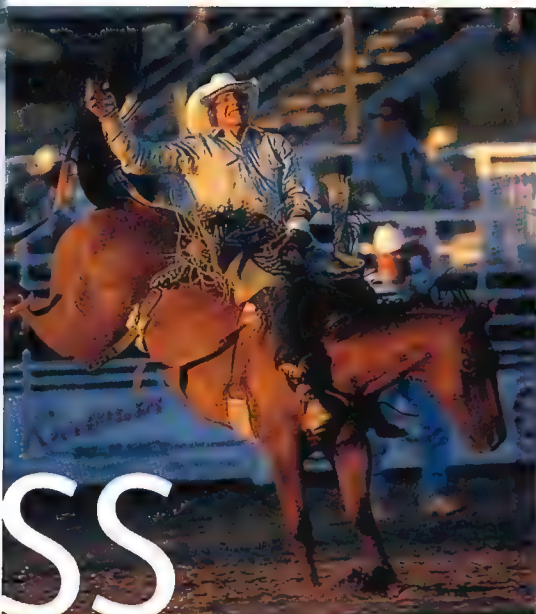


COLORADANS HAVE
EMBRACED THE ROCKIES
AS FERVENTLY AS THEY
HAVE THEIR STATE'S
WEALTH OF HISTORIC,
NATURAL AND CULTURAL
WONDERS.



MILE HIGH MAD





A RING OF PURPLE SEATS AT COORS FIELD AND THE 18TH step of the State Capitol in Denver have one thing in common: they are exactly one-mile high, 5,280 feet above sea level.

Yale University physicist Robert Adair advised against playing baseball a mile high. It would require a mammoth ballpark or a dead ball, he said. By Adair's calculations, a 400-foot fly ball at sea level travels 30 to 40 feet farther in Denver.

Other scientists chimed in with theories about pounds per square inch and oxygen depletion. The baseball lexicon had been expanded.

Fans in the Rocky Mountains have adopted a slogan for this brouhaha: "Baseball With An Altitude."

It refers to 496-foot home runs, a home team that routinely hits 200 homers a year, an annual Most Valuable Player candidate, a shortage of free-agent aces willing to pitch in Colorado's thin air and an occasional September snow out.

But this brand of ball is only part of the reason baseball fans from Montana to New Mexico have embraced the Colorado Rockies since Major League Baseball arrived in the Mile High City in 1993. The other part isn't so easily explained with scientific theory.

It has more to do with a storybook beginning, a magical moment when the team's first batter in its first home game hit a home run on a 3-2 pitch. As the ball sailed to left-center field, liling and rising in a majestic arc, the roar of 80,227 people at Mile High Stadium—where the Rockies played their first two seasons—exploded in a symphony of fan frenzy that's echoed now for 5 1/2 years. It was as if years of boxed up cheers were released all at once. Ron Miller, the fan who caught Eric Young's home run, turned down \$5,000 for the ball.

It was the largest home-opening crowd in Major League history and the most to watch a regular season game. 200,000 programs were sold that day. Fans without tickets stood on each other's shoulders to peer over a low spot in the fence, a sight reminiscent of the knot-hole days.

BY DAVE CURTIN

COLORADO'S
CELEBRATED
AND VARIED
OUTDOORS FUN
INCLUDES
SKIING, RODEO,
DINING IN
"LODO" AND
OF COURSE,
TAKING IN A
ROCKIES GAME.

NESS





These days, soaking in a game at an "old-time" ballpark hasn't hurt, either. The red bricks and deep-green seats of Coors Field, which opened on Denver's forgotten streets in 1995, transformed a seedy warehouse district into a swaggering neighborhood with trendy bars, restaurants and galleries.

"The Rockies and Major League Baseball have played a key role in the revitalization of Lower Downtown Denver," Colorado Gov. Roy Romer says. "There's no better place to enjoy a baseball game than at the base of the Rocky Mountains."

The Sporting News took all this into account when it named Denver the Best Sports City last year. It considered fan fervor, stadium quality and sports atmosphere. The magazine cited the city's franchises in all four major leagues, plus world-class golfing, skiing and mountain biking—in short, a sports lifestyle.

And while the state's enthusiasm for the Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos and the Stanley Cup Champion Colorado Avalanche (1996), can't be overstated, it's hunger for baseball was evident since the 1950s when the Minor League Denver Bears outdrew a couple of Major League teams.

A Denver call-in talk radio show recently asked listeners, "Where were you?" the moment Eric Young hit his lead-off home run 5 1/2 years ago. The question was posed as if it was a life altering event of monumental social significance. For some, it was.

"The Rockies are part of our family, part of our life," one caller said. "I can't imagine life without them."

That's baseball with an attitude. ♦

Dave Curtin is a freelance writer based in Denver, Colo.

A Hit Revival

When the Colorado Rockies moved into the comfortable confines of Coors Field in 1995, the team not only made an impact on the field, but on Denver's historic Lower Downtown business district as well.

Before the stadium was constructed, the "LoDo" area was about the last place locals headed for food, drink and entertainment. But today, with Coors Field and its traditional brick facade anchoring the area, it is one of the most popular destinations in the Mile High City.

Restaurants, bars and micro-breweries abound within walking distance of the stadium located at the corner of Blake and 20th Streets. More than 20 art galleries and an array of small businesses also call the area home.

"Coors Field revitalized this area," says Chris Heriza, a bartender at Splinters, which is usually packed before and after Rockies games. "It turned a place that no one wanted to come to into a place where everyone comes to have a good time. It also helped save a lot of old buildings that probably would have been destroyed."

Blake Street was named after Charles Blake, who established supply depots in the area after arriving in 1858. Originally the area was Denver's warehouse, brothel and sporting house district. By the 1920s new warehouses built along Blake gave the street its variety of architecture. Many of the buildings were renovated in the late '70s and '80s and the arrival of Coors Field fueled the restoration even further.

"It really has turned into a special place," says Rob Wendt, a neighborhood restaurant manager. "It's helped turn people who otherwise wouldn't be interested in baseball into die-hard Rockies fans."

—Gary Klein

Boomtown and Paradise

Denver was not named after John Denver. And it doesn't snow every day. In fact the Chamber of Commerce is fond of saying that the sun shines in Denver 310 days a year. Ploled at the base of the Rocky Mountains on a high plateau at the western limit of the Great Plains, Denver came into being as a mining town, dating from the gold strike of 1858.

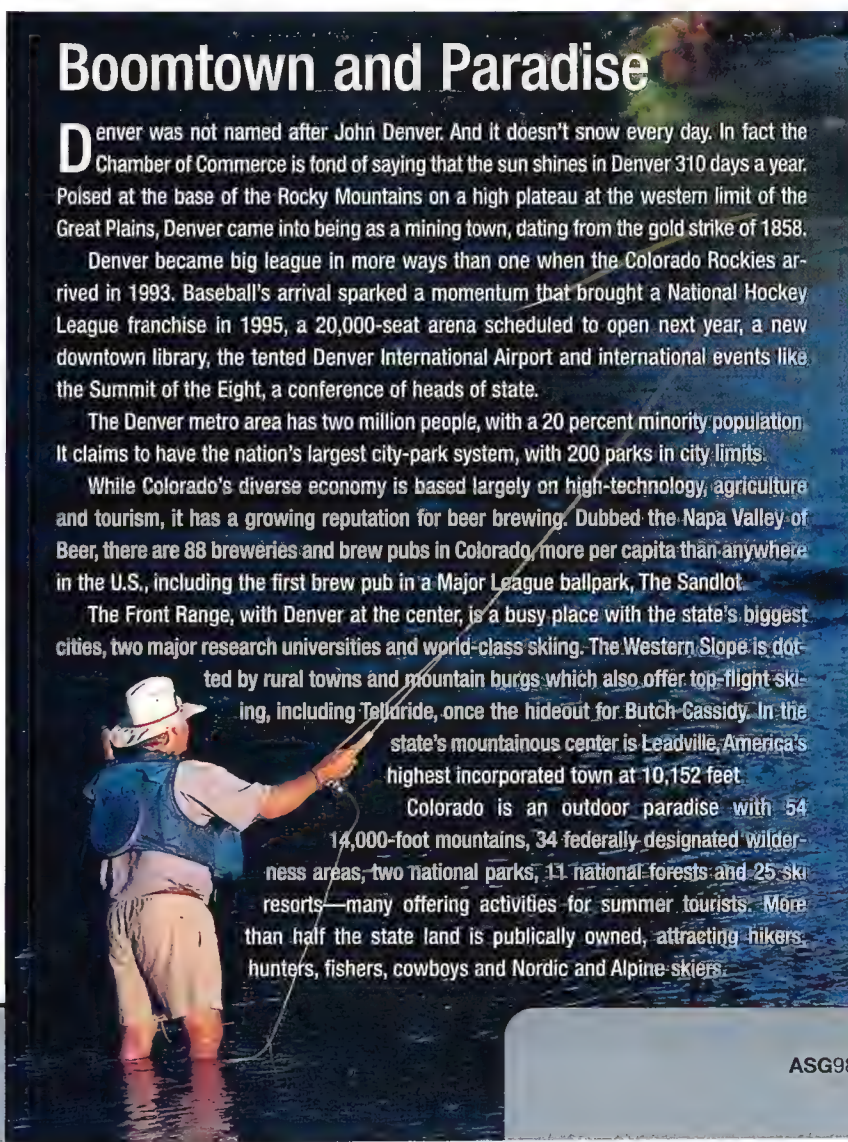
Denver became big league in more ways than one when the Colorado Rockies arrived in 1993. Baseball's arrival sparked a momentum that brought a National Hockey League franchise in 1995, a 20,000-seat arena scheduled to open next year, a new downtown library, the tented Denver International Airport and international events like the Summit of the Eight, a conference of heads of state.

The Denver metro area has two million people, with a 20 percent minority population. It claims to have the nation's largest city-park system, with 200 parks in city limits.

While Colorado's diverse economy is based largely on high-technology, agriculture and tourism, it has a growing reputation for beer brewing. Dubbed the Napa Valley of Beer, there are 88 breweries and brew pubs in Colorado, more per capita than anywhere in the U.S., including the first brew pub in a Major League ballpark, The Sandlot.

The Front Range, with Denver at the center, is a busy place with the state's biggest cities, two major research universities and world-class skiing. The Western Slope is dotted by rural towns and mountain burghs which also offer top-flight skiing, including Telluride, once the hideout for Butch Cassidy. In the state's mountainous center is Leadville, America's highest incorporated town at 10,152 feet.

Colorado is an outdoor paradise with 54 14,000-foot mountains, 34 federally designated wilderness areas, two national parks, 11 national forests and 25 ski resorts—many offering activities for summer tourists. More than half the state land is publically owned, attracting hikers, hunters, fishers, cowboys and Nordic and Alpine skiers.



TIM HANCOCK

Welcome



KING SOOPERS AND THEIR STARTING LINEUP
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Before today's

stars imitate

their own

successful styles,

they spend

countless hours

during childhood

emulating their



By Sean Plottner

Walking in Their Footsteps



IT'S MIDSEASON 1975, YANKEE STADIUM.

Inside the home team's locker room, a group of ballplayers, including the likes of Craig Nettles, Chris Chambliss and Roy White, gather 'round a visitor for a highly unusual pregame batting clinic. They watch as the guest—a boy all of nine years old—grabs a bat and calmly takes center stage. He assumes a batting stance and swings at an imaginary pitch. Then he does it again, only this time he's demonstrating a different stance. Each time he poses and strokes away, the players in pinstripes howl with laughter. For the boy is showing them what they do at the plate. He has watched these players

Sandy Alomar Jr. (inset) developed his own swing after mimicking those used by his dad (main photo) and Alomar Sr.'s teammates.

Spirit of Colorado

IT'S OUR LOVE OF
THE GAME.



IT'S OUR SPIRIT
OF COMPETITION.



IT'S OUR
HOME TEAM.



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Spirit of Colorado



closely and knows their every quirk in the batter's box. The kid is a natural—at being a copycat. He's learned a lot by keeping his eyes open.

A lot indeed. The kid's name is Sandy Alomar Jr., whose father's status as a professional ballplayer opened many a locker room door for the future Cleveland Indians and All-Star catcher. Undaunted by his big league surroundings, young Sandy occupied the time by goofing off, like any kid. But his swing antics were more than just monkey-see, monkey-do. They marked the beginnings of a baseball career.

Not many players in the game today grew up with that sort of up close and personal access to big leaguers. But most started out in the same fashion—by pretending to be someone else. They acted out their starring roles not in front of pros, like Sandy, but in their backyards,

Left: Former star Robin Yount (top) used to tuck his chin into his shoulder while swinging, a technique that Travis Fryman picked up and often uses. **Below:** Long before Cal Ripken Jr. (left) and Seattle's Alex Rodriguez got to know each other, "A-Rod" admired Ripken's style.

"I almost didn't want to meet him because my expectations were so high and I didn't want to be disappointed."
Seattle shortstop Alex Rodriguez, on meeting Cal Ripken Jr. for the first time

right. But not before dozens of mini Reggie Jacksons and Thurman Munsons had blasted game-winning home runs in the bottom of the ninth in backyards across America.

When Cincinnati won back-to-back championships in 1975-76, junior versions of the Big Red Machine popped up in those same backyards. At the New Jersey home of eight-year-old Eric Young, things were no different. There, Reds second baseman Joe Morgan appeared regularly, as played by Young, a wannabe second baseman. Who better to copy than Morgan, a two-time league MVP who played more seasons at the position than anyone?

"He played a huge role on his team, and I liked him because he was short," says Young, who stands 5-feet-9-inches and now plays second for the Los Angeles Dodgers. "He was the little big man of the team."

Morgan, of course, had one of the more unusual batting styles ever seen in baseball. A left-handed hitter, he twitched his left arm up and down as though it were a wing and he was attempting flight. Morgan never flew, but he made the ball soar, slamming 268 homers with his unorthodox swing, more than any second baseman in the game's history. Young, awed by those home runs and fascinated by what he called Morgan's "flap," tried it out for himself.

"I thought if you flapped the arm you would hit home runs the way he did," says Young. "He made it look so easy."

But the flap flopped. It didn't produce hits, and it certainly didn't result in home runs for Young. So he dropped

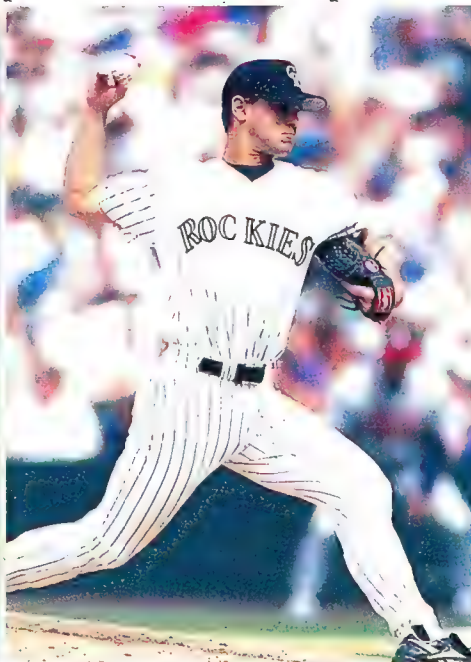
where they marched (and swung, hit and ran) to the beats of their baseball heroes, well before slogans such as "I Wanna Be Like Mike" and "I Am Tiger Woods" hit the mainstream.

For Texas third baseman Dean Palmer, that meant spending hours in his Florida yard imagining he was his favorite player, Atlanta slugger Dale Murphy. For New York Mets stopper John Franco, who grew up in Brooklyn, it meant slapping his thigh hard with his glove just as he saw Mets pitcher Tug McGraw do to celebrate or pump himself up. For Cleveland's Charles Nagy, it meant copying almost any pitcher he saw on TV.

"I tried to emulate a lot of different guys when I was a kid," says Nagy. "One day I'd go out and say, 'I want to throw like Luis Tiant.' The next day it would be someone else."

Ask any player today and you'll hear a similar story. The first game face he ever put on was probably that of his favorite player, who probably starred for one of the great teams of the 1970s. Eventually he dropped the ways of his hero and developed into a ballplayer in his own





Colorado pitcher Jerry DiPoto grew up copying Tom Seaver's knee-to-the-ground release motion, and even spent two seasons playing for his hero's former team, the Mets.

a couple of stars from the 1980s: Mets first baseman Keith Hernandez and Baltimore shortstop Cal Ripken Jr.

A New York native, Rodriguez rooted for the Mets. He found Hernandez a pretty cool customer, especially whenever an airplane roared over Shea Stadium during an at-bat. "He'd step out every time and wait," says Rodriguez. "It also

his flapper act, developed his own style at the plate, and today his swing involves nothing like it. He's not a home run hitter like Morgan, either, but Young hasn't needed that kind of power to find success in the Majors.

Colorado reliever Jerry Dipoto, another New Jersey product, loved the New York Mets when he was young, back when Tom Seaver was the Mets. Dipoto, eager to pitch, studied him closely. Today, he can still describe everything about Seaver's mechanics in minute detail.

"He was nice and smooth, nothing ever jerky. The leg would come up and curl just a little bit. And he had that distinct drop and drive, where his right leg would just drop and his knee would practically drag on the mound."

Dipoto perfected his Tom Terrific impersonation in the backyard. By the time he got to high school, he realized that his body type and arm angle required a different set of mound mechanics than those used so effectively by his idol. But he still gushes whenever Seaver's name comes up. Mention the trade (the Mets unexpectedly sent Seaver to the Reds in 1977) and you get a moment of silence.

"I remember thinking, 'Man, I'm done, what am I gonna do!'" says Dipoto, who was 9 years old at the time.

In Minnesota, Jim Eisenreich grew up spending more time playing baseball than watching his favorite team, the Twins. But he knew the names Harmon Killebrew, Tony Oliva and Rod Carew well.

"When we'd play sandlot ball, the one I'd try most to be like was Carew," says Eisenreich, now an outfielder with Los Angeles. "I couldn't hit homers, so I couldn't be Killebrew. Carew was more my kind of hitter because he hit to left field a lot, and he hit a lot of singles. So I would try to copy his batting stance." That meant keeping the front foot open, bending the back leg just a tad, and keeping the weight back.

"I thought he hit the ball because of the way he stood," he adds. That was true—at least for Carew. But not for Eisenreich. His blueprint for success? A stance that included standing straight up, closing his feet up and minimizing any movement.

Seattle shortstop Alex Rodriguez grew up admiring

impressed me that he wore no batting gloves or wrist bands." Rodriguez says he has no interest in copying Hernandez on that note. But watch Ripken and you might detect some similarities. "He was a tall, good-hitting shortstop, and that's what I wanted to be all my life," he reveals.

The young Mariner got to know Ripken a few years ago in Japan, where they played together on a visiting squad of Major League stars. "I almost didn't want to meet him because my expectations were so high and I didn't want to be

Tale of the Tape

Sure, players watch each other closely and try to apply what they see to their own games. But what about watching themselves?

Ballplayers watch videotapes of their performances, but the tale of the tape in baseball isn't like it is in football, where players spend hours in projection rooms. Instead, it seems the ballplayers who go to the videotape do so only when times are bad and they need to remember things—and swings—weren't always so bad.

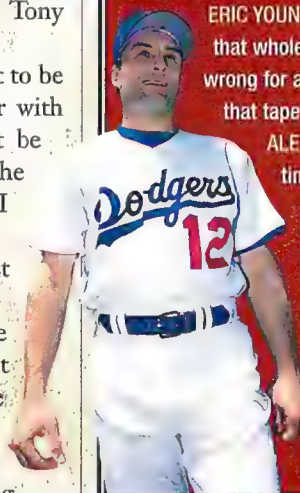
JIM EISENREICH: "Only when I'm having a tough time will I look at some tapes, just to get a look at how I think I feel when I'm hitting good. It's just a refresher, and it reminds me that, 'Oh, you could hit once.' I prefer to get on the field or into the batting cage, though, and work things out that way."

ERIC YOUNG: "My best year was 1996, so I have a tape of that whole season. Occasionally, when I feel I'm going wrong for a little bit and can't figure it out, I'll go back to that tape and snap, I get right back on track."

ALEX RODRIGUEZ: "I look at tapes of myself all the time. Mostly good times. You want to recall the good times, keep that picture in your mind, and keep doing it over and over again."

PAUL SORRENTO: "I only watch tapes of myself if I'm going through a bad stretch at the plate. The only other time is before Spring Training, to refresh my memory and see where I was and what I was comfortable at during the end of the previous season."

Jim Eisenreich





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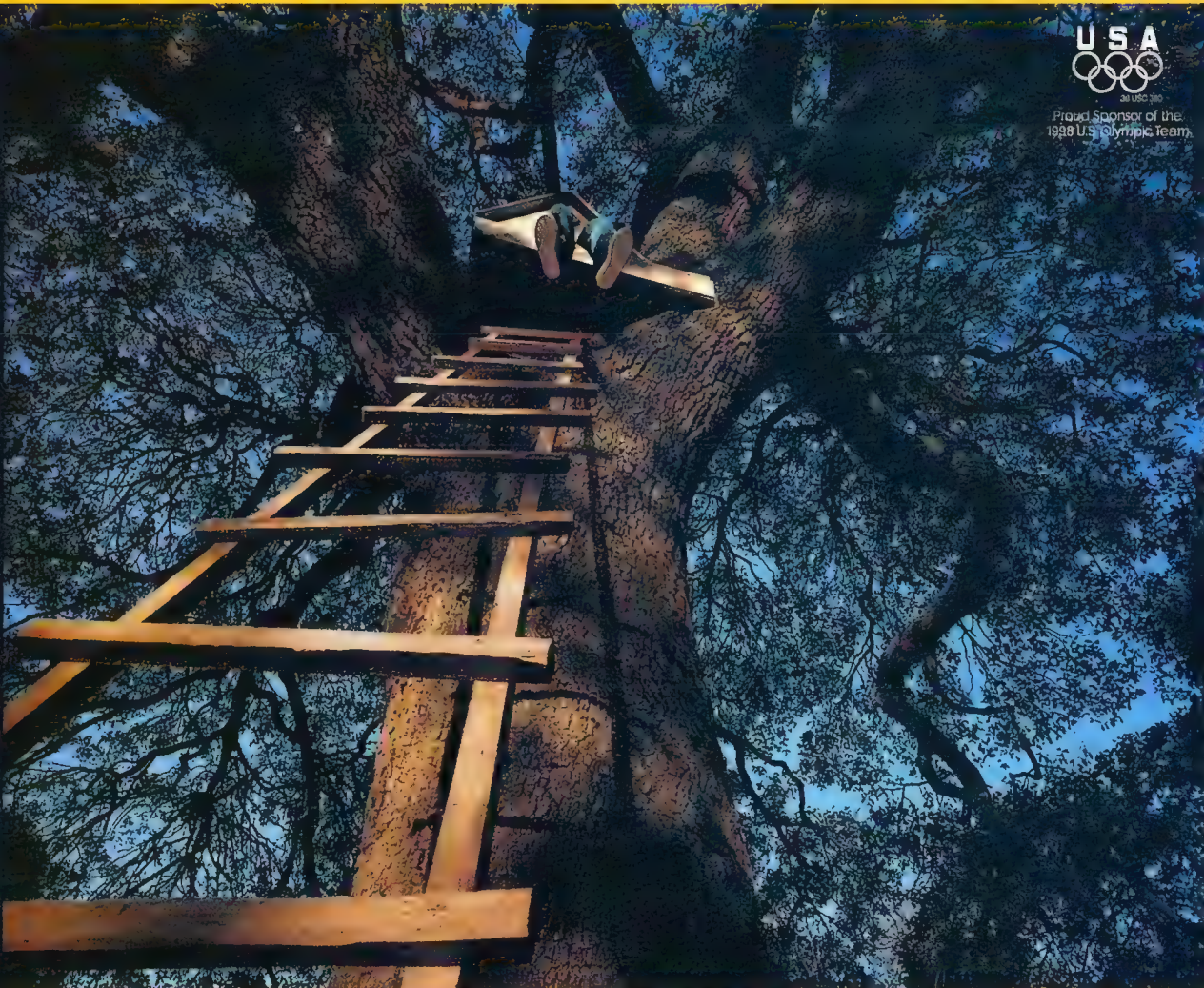
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disappointed," he admits. But Ripken has a way of meeting high expectations, and the duo have embarked on what has become a quasi mentor-protégé relationship that includes offseason visits by Rodríguez to Ripken's home each year. "I asked him a lot of questions in Japan," Rodríguez explains. "He tells me a lot of things and I've learned a lot from him."

Tampa Bay's Paul Sorrento had hockey on the brain as a kid growing up just outside Bruins-crazed Boston. But hanging out with a neighborhood boy, who happened to be the son of Boston second baseman Mike Andrews, got him off the ice and onto a baseball diamond. The classic 1975 World Series between Cincinnati and Boston clinched his interest in the game and his idolization of Sox star Carl Yastrzemski. The great outfielder stood out to Sorrento for several reasons: he played outfield and batted left, like Sor-

"I tried to emulate a lot of different guys when I was a kid. One day I'd go out and say I want to throw like Luis Tiant. The next day it would be someone else."

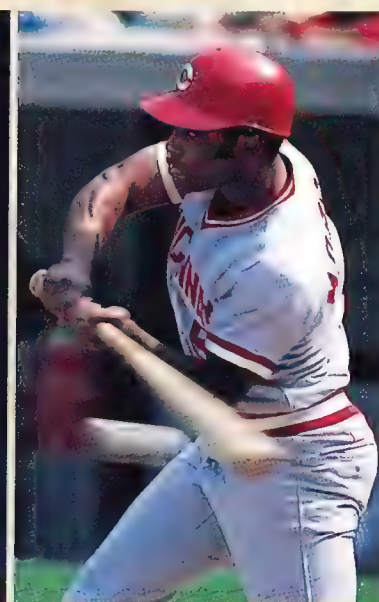
Cleveland pitcher Charles Nagy

As today's stars grew up and turned serious attention to their skills, they abandoned their copycat ways and became originals. This usually occurred during Little League years or in high school, when backyard mimicry lost its appeal in favor of improving the chance for success on the field.

"When I played real games, I wasn't concerned about who I looked like," says Eisenreich. "I just wanted to hit the ball."

Good idea. While star players with unorthodox playing styles have never been in short supply, they're not good models for newcomers to copy. No instructor in his right mind would teach a kid to throw sidearm like former Pirates pitcher Kent Tekulve, or to flap his back arm like Morgan, or to dive at pitches the way Roberto Clemente did.

As Dipoto admits, throwing like Tom Seaver is one thing. Throwing like him effectively is altogether different.



rento, and he had that unusual way of holding his bat high over his head at the plate. Sorrento adopted the same bat-held-high style early on. "I tried it until I figured out I couldn't hit like that," he says. "I still don't know how Yaz kept hitting like that."

Nearly every ballplayer can tell you a similar tale. Texas outfielder Roberto Kelly wanted to be like fellow Panamanian Rod Carew, while Rangers closer John Wetteland wanted to throw as hard as Nolan Ryan. And on it goes.

But while imitation may be the highest form of flattery, it never got anyone to a World Series. After all, the ability to plunge headfirst into second base doesn't necessarily transform you into Pete Rose, and carefully grooming a handlebar mustache won't garner anyone 300-plus saves and a Cy Young Award like Oakland great Rollie Fingers.

(Left to right) Boston's Luis Tiant was just one of Charles Nagy's many childhood idols, while Dodgers' second baseman Eric Young followed Joe Morgan's great career, though he wisely abandoned the "Morgan flap."

Even Seaver says so in his book, *The Art of Pitching*: "Don't imitate others." Personal nuances, if they develop at all, should come gradually, and only after a player has mastered basic baseball fundamentals.

Only then, if necessary, should he make personal departures from the norm, based on his body type, natural ability and that biggest factor of all: what brings success on the field. That's the course players like Tekulve, Morgan and Clemente took in developing their unique styles. What worked for them, however, doesn't work for everyone else. Oftentimes, it doesn't work for anyone else.

That's not to say there aren't examples of a Little Leaguer utilizing some aspect of his hero's game to help his own. Some of that sandlot goofing can prove worthwhile. For example, Tampa Bay third baseman Wade Boggs picked



Roberto Clemente



Kent Tekulve

No instructor in his right mind would teach a kid to throw sidearm like former Pirates pitcher Kent Tekulve...or to dive at pitches the way Roberto Clemente did.

up the habit of watching a pitch all the way into the catcher's mitt by observing Pete Rose do the same thing. This, says Boggs, provides him with a much better sense of the strike zone, and he does it to this day. David Cone grew up watching Kansas City pitcher Dennis Leonard, whose delivery and windup he worked hard to emulate. "You can still see some of it in me today," says the Yankee pitcher.

Cases such as these are rare. It's far more likely for a kid to adopt his baseball hero's general strategy or overall attitude—rather than a quirky physical trait—and effectively emulate it all the way from backyard to the Majors.

New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza typifies this sort of emulation. He grew up in Pennsylvania where, not surprisingly, he admired Phillies Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt. "I tried to copy his habits, his actions and the way he carried himself on the field," says Piazza. Rodriguez, meanwhile, refers to a "tireless work ethic" as a requirement for success. Sounds a bit like Ripken, doesn't it?

Alomar, impressed with the blocking skills of catchers

like Gary Carter and former Ranger Jim Sundberg, who played with Sandy's dad in Texas, aimed his sights on defense. "Those guys definitely set a standard for me," he says.

Alomar didn't copy their particulars. Instead, he set a goal to become a great blocking catcher. Few would argue that he hasn't attained what he set out to accomplish.

Back in New Jersey, Young would scan the New York dailies as a kid and follow more than Morgan's batting line. He noticed that Yankees' second baseman Willie Randolph rarely made tabloid news, that he simply went out and performed solidly every game.

"I admired his demeanor on and off the field, and I wanted to be a person like that," says Young. "Someone who never has a negative thing said about him."

So copying a baseball idol isn't necessarily bad. At first, you may be all style and no substance. But after you master the fundamentals and your own style emerges, some of the heroes' ways may come in handy. As Cleveland's Travis Fryman says, there are probably "bits and pieces of all of our favorite players" involved in each aspect of our game.

Interestingly, once many players reach the Majors, a funny thing happens: they become copycats again. Not outright, of course. But in subtle ways—a tweak here, a slight

BERNARD PHOTO (CLEMENTE); TONSCAL PHOTO (TEKULVE)



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Texas third baseman Dean Palmer (left) spent countless hours as a kid pretending he was Dale Murphy, the former big league slugger, before making his own way to the Show.

adjustment there. Keep your eyes open like the young Alomar, and you might just catch a player doing a little something that could help your game. Even the tiniest of changes can make a difference between winning and losing.

"There's not a day you don't learn something," says Rodriguez. Adds St. Louis slugger Mark McGwire: "There's always room for improvement." And Eisenreich takes the thought one step further: "I think when you stop learning, you can't play anymore."

Obviously, players agree they must be wide-eyed students. That's where coaches, veterans and experience come in, along with taking what you can from other players.

Fryman likes to watch players he considers physically similar to him. "I like the way Juan González hits, sure, but it's not realistic for me to be that type of hitter," he says. "So I try to watch somebody that's a little more in tune to the type of player I have a chance to be." Early in Fryman's career, Milwaukee's Robin Yount fit the bill. Fryman noticed how the two-time league MVP tucked his chin into his front shoulder at the plate. "It seemed to keep Yount from pulling his head off a pitch, so I tried it," Fryman says. "I still do it a great deal."

Meanwhile, when Sorrento assumed full-time designated hitter duties this season he simply recalled the routine of former teammate Edgar Martínez, DH for the Seattle



Mariners. "I watched him stay warm between at-bats by hitting off a tee, lifting weights, doing anything to keep the blood flowing," says Sorrento.

Whatever works. Whatever it takes to find that ever-important success on the field, baseball players will try it. Even if it's not an original idea.

Copcats are as old as the game itself, and they aren't about to go away. Alomar probably knows this better than anyone. His eight-year-old son, Marcus, likes to hang out in the Indians clubhouse. He wants to be a shortstop and has already taken the same jersey number as Tribe fielding wizard Omar Vizquel. He no longer wants to play catcher, but he's like dad in other ways. He can already imitate the batting stances and swings of his father's teammates. ♦

Sean Plottner is a freelance writer based in Avon, N.C.

Family Guidance

While most ballplayers had baseball heroes to copy and use as baseball role models, to whom did they turn for direction in the all-important game of life?

PAUL SORRENTO: "Both of my parents worked a couple of jobs to provide for me and my two sisters. I think their work ethic really rubbed off on me. My career hasn't come that easily, and I've had to put a lot of hard work into it. I think I definitely got that from them. And I'll forever be indebted to my father for the hours he put in playing catch with me."

ALEX RODRIGUEZ: "My mom has been the number one role model of all."

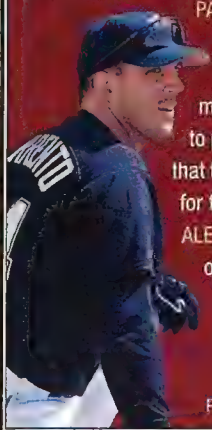
TRAVIS FRYMAN: "Dad was the most important man in my life as a child. He was a big baseball

fan; he used to hitchhike from Kentucky to games in Cincinnati when he was in college. When I was 3, he says, I could name the starting lineup for the Reds. Obviously, we talked a lot of baseball."

JERRY DIPOTO: "My dad was great. He coached my Little League teams, and every night when he'd come home from work he'd get out there in the backyard with me, put on the glove, squat down and let me pretend I was Tom Seaver."

JIM EISENREICH: "My dad was a role model, of course. He loved Ted Williams and played a lot of catch with me. When he got too old and I threw too hard for him, my brother took over. Then my younger brother. And my sister could play, too."

ERIC YOUNG: "I've always looked up to my parents. I think of the hard work they put in every day to get us to the level we were as a family. They instilled confidence, heart and a work ethic. They were hard working people, and one thing they said was if you want anything in life, you have to work hard for it."



Paul Sorrento

PULLING GLOVES: PHOTOS (MURPHY, SORRENTO, WILLIAMS) AND PHOTOS (PALMER)

Twenty-five years after the American League instituted the designated hitter "experiment," the rule continues to elicit impassioned debate on its merit.



Split Personality

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a baseball fan is encountering the opportunity to argue about aspects of the game. Was Hank Aaron or Willie Mays the greater player and how does Ken Griffey Jr. compare to these legends? Was Joe DiMaggio or

Ted Williams the superior hitter and where does Tony Gwynn fit in? Is the bunt a lost art or simply obsolete in today's power-driven game?

You get the idea.

But of all the debates that rage on in the game—from the critical to the absurd—few topics

extract such varying yet decisive opinions as the designated hitter rule. And, perhaps, no other modern rule has created such disparity between the American and National Leagues on the way the game is played (or should be played) than the DH.

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Split Personality

Proponents of the DH dating back to the unofficial inventor, former Oakland A's owner Charles O. Finley, maintain that it adds offense to the game, which translates into increased excitement. The DH, they claim, also prolongs the careers of aging superstars whom fans are still willing to pay to see.

"In the long run, and perhaps even immediately, the DH will prove to be a coup for the American League," predicted former commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who tried unsuccessfully to convince then-NL president Chub Feeney to adopt the "experiment" when the AL did in 1972.

Opponents such as Feeney cited the lack of strategic manipulation of the lineup needed by managers. They also condemned the rule because it isn't consistent with the purists' outlook of the game in general.

"The pitchers having to hit, and the strategy employed by the managers related to that, are integral in baseball," Feeney insisted.

Similar exchanges between both sides have been going on ever since the New York Yankees' Ron Blomberg took his turn at bat against Boston on Opening Day of the 1973 season, becoming the first designated hitter in Major League history. Oddly enough, Blomberg drew a bases-loaded walk.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the DH, which has progressed in theory and in practice since Blomberg's historic at-bat. When the league first adopted it, AL president Joe Cronin viewed the

change as opening a door for younger prospects who could swing a bat but were significantly less adept in the field.

"We think the rule will be a great boon for young talent," Cronin said. "There may be a lot of gawky, strong

kids who ordinarily may not feel they have the all-around skills to come into baseball, who will be lured into the game by the knowledge they could make a career in hitting alone."

Cronin's vision didn't pan out, however. Instead, it was the late, legendary skipper Casey Stengel, 82 years old and long retired from managing when the DH was put into place, who had a more accurate assessment of what the "new position" would do for the game.

"I think it can't help but prolong the career of older player," Stengel said.

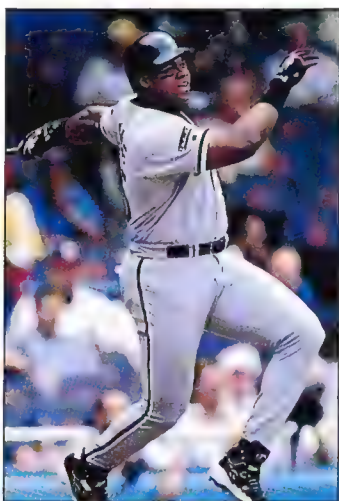
Indeed, the DH of today offers varying usage for managers, who determine its feasibility depending on the personnel. Those regarded as the best active DHs include such veterans as Seattle's Edgar Martinez, the Yankees' Chili Davis, Cleveland's David Justice and ageless Paul Molitor of Minnesota.

But that's just it. Would the 41-year-old Molitor seem energetic despite his years if he was forced to play in the field to continue his career?

"The DH has evolved into a position on a team just like shortstop or center field," Molitor says. "I'm not claiming that it's as important as those positions, but it's a part of the game. My role is to get hits, get on base and drive in runs. If I don't do my job, I have the potential to let my team down just as much as anyone else on the club. I don't think there is any player who wouldn't prefer to play in the field, myself included."

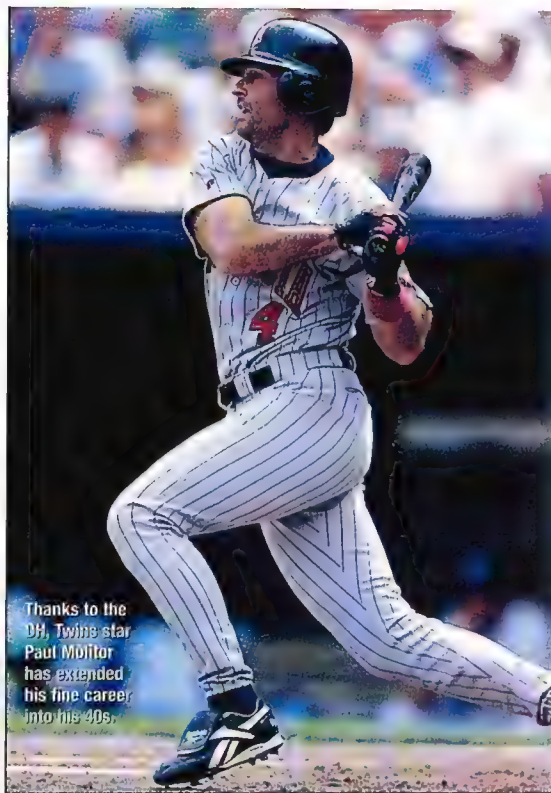
The DH has evolved predominantly into a veteran-dominated position, not

only because it suits the concept of including a good hitter in a lineup despite fielding deficiencies brought on by time and other factors, but also because there is a belief that most younger players do not adjust well to the part-time status.



"I prefer to play first base, [but] I'll play wherever the lineup says to. Not my job to say or do otherwise."

—White Sox DH Frank Thomas



Thanks to the DH, Twins star Paul Molitor has extended his fine career into his 40s.

WILLIAMSON/MLB PHOTOS

In the first half of '98, only Boston (Reggie Jefferson), Detroit (several players) and Oakland (Matt Stairs) routinely utilized players under 30 as DHs. And both Jefferson and Stairs are 29.

By contrast, Molitor is one of several DHs over the age of 35. Included on that list are Davis, Martinez, Baltimore's Harold Baines and Joe Carter, and Chicago's Ruben Sierra. In addition, Anaheim's Cecil Fielder and Toronto's Mike Stanley are each 34.

For the Yankees, an injury which shelved Davis for two months didn't change manager Joe Torre's thinking. In Davis' place, he primarily utilized two other veterans in Darryl Strawberry (36) and Tim Lincecum (38). "I look at the quality of the hitter," Torre says.

One primary aspect that most DHs have in common is that they can hit for power. It has become accepted that power-hitters make the best DHs because of their greater potential to impact a game with one swing. But the thinking in many cases is actually quite different. For one thing, DHs don't generally run well, which is a factor that contributes to why they are defensive liabilities. More often, the idea of the DH as a preserver of health for a quality hitter is what holds water.

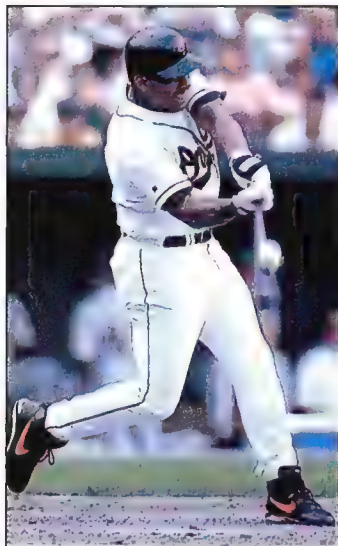
Several managers in the '70s desired to use DHs who handled the bat well, could run, hit-and-run, whatever was required. Versatility was viewed as a key.

Split Personality

But Finley never bought into it, disdaining skipper Dick Williams' preference for a contact hitter in favor of someone with more gusto. Ironically, Finley would have had the perfect fit at Oakland in veteran Orlando Cepeda, but the Oakland owner released the former great because of Cepeda's deteriorating knees not long before the DH was given the green light.

Today, most managers subscribe to the power theory, when forced to make a choice. With Davis or Martinez, their managers get the best of both, although at the cost of speed.

Martinez has won two AL batting titles and reached the big leagues as a third baseman in 1990. By '93, however, he was the full-time DH, a role he has never fought.



"I never felt like I was in the flow of the game when I was DHing."

—Dodgers third baseman and former Oriole DH Bobby Bonilla

"I understand that the best way I can help this team is with my hitting," said Martinez, who battled an assortment of injuries throughout the earlier part of his career that limited his ability to play in the field. "Being a DH is not an easy thing to do, because you can sometimes go a long time between at-bats. But I am being paid to hit well when I get to bat. It's my job to be ready."

Martinez tries to stay ready by swinging a weighted bat in the dugout to keep his wrists loose. And he stretches his chronically tight hamstrings at every chance.

Of course, some DHs are even more hyper during the down time. Bip Roberts, a veteran with Detroit, was the Tigers' Opening Day DH this year. He says he can't sit still over the course of a game, itching to be involved somehow.

"A foul pop will come toward the dugout and I'll think about catching it," he says, with a laugh. "It's not an easy way to spend a game."

Hal McRae, the first player in history who truly excelled as a full-time, long-term DH, was a constant observer of a game's goings-on. This was a prime contributor to his preparation and subsequent rise to the job of a Major League manager for Kansas City in the early '90s.

And then there was Blomberg, the first-overall draft choice in 1967 who wasn't expected to be the first-ever DH just six years later. Yankees manager Ralph Houk planned to use veteran Felipe Alou, now the Montreal Expos' skipper, in the role. The unexpected swap elicited a Yogi Berra-like response from Blomberg. "I don't know how I'll make out as the DH. I've never done it before," he said seriously.

As Houk had utilized a series of no-name prospects as DHs during Spring Training, Blomberg figured he was the regular

While most of the original designated hitters were not household names [see charts below], today's DH is more likely to have starred in the Majors for a number of years before settling into this specialized role. For instance, in 1973, New York's Opening Day DH Ron Blomberg was entering his fourth season in the Majors with just 175 games and 21 home runs under his belt; by 1998, this Yankees' roster spot was occupied by 38-year-old Chili Davis, who had smacked 328 homers over a 17-year career.

The First DHs, Opening Day 1973

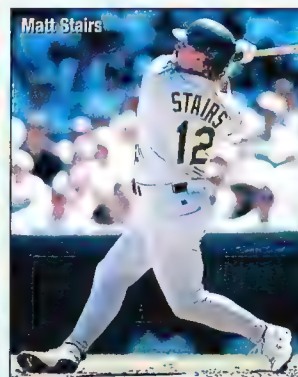
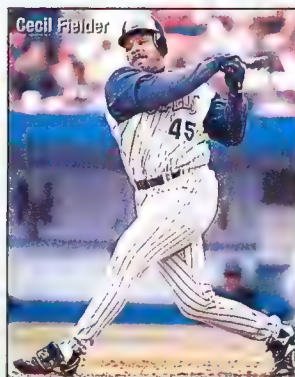
Team	DH	Age	Power/Avg/Speed
Baltimore	Terry Crowley	25	A
Boston	Orlando Cepeda	35	P
California	Tom McCraw	32	S
Chicago	Mike Andrews	29	P
Cleveland	John Ellis	30	A
Detroit	Gates Brown	33	P
Kansas City	Ed Kirkpatrick	28	P
Milwaukee	Ollie Brown	29	P
Minnesota	Tony Oliva	32	P, A
New York	Ron Blomberg	25	P
Oakland	Bill North	24	S
Texas	Rico Carty	33	P, A

Average Age: 29.6 years

Today's DHs, Opening Day 1998

Team	DH	Age	Power/Avg/Speed
Anaheim	Cecil Fielder	34	P
Baltimore	Joe Carter	38	P
Boston	Reggie Jefferson	29	A, P
Chicago	Frank Thomas	29	P, A
Cleveland	Shawon Dunston	35	A, S
Detroit	Bip Roberts	34	A, S
Kansas City	Terry Pendleton	37	A
Minnesota	Paul Molitor	41	A
New York	Chili Davis	38	P, A
Oakland	Matt Stairs	29	P
Seattle	Edgar Martinez	35	P, A
Tampa Bay	Paul Sorrento	32	P
Texas	Lee Stevens	30	P
Toronto	Jose Canseco	33	P

Average Age: 33.9 years



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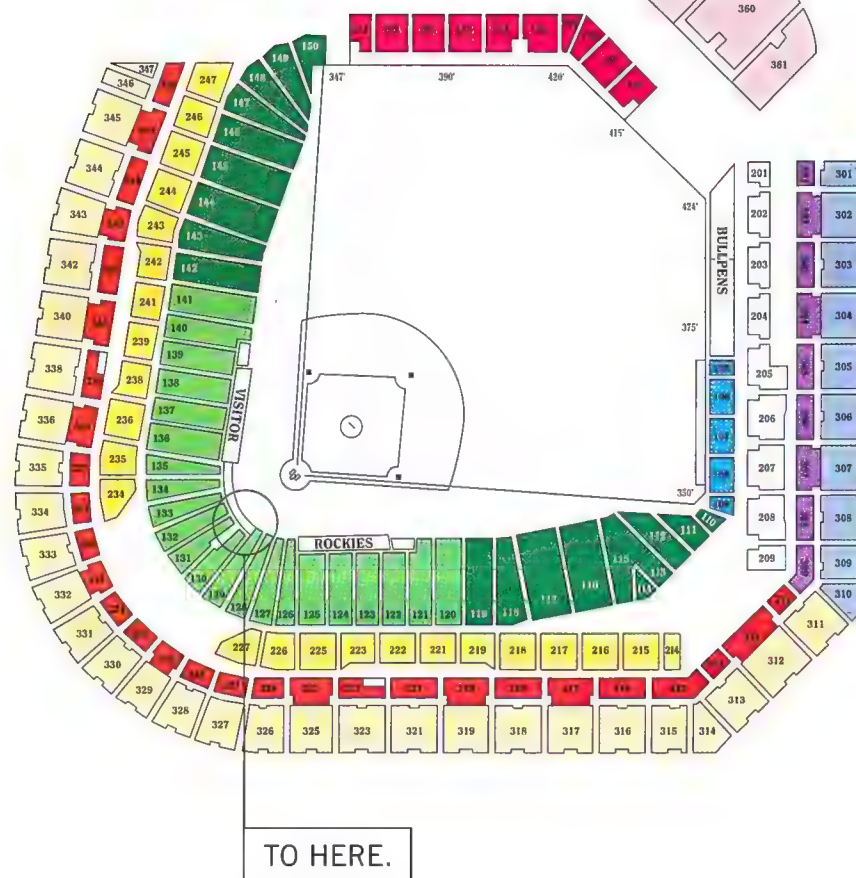
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first baseman. But Houk, according to *Baseball Digest*, was concerned that the veteran Alou might have more difficulty staying loose and ready. He reasoned that Blomberg's laid-back attitude and comparatively youthful athleticism was better suited to the DH role.

"The bottom line is we scored some runs and won the game," Houk said.

One current manager who isn't afraid to utilize just about anyone in the DH role is Anaheim skipper Terry Collins. A former Houston manager and staunch supporter of the National League's style of play, Collins adapted the DH to his thinking during his first AL season in '97, often using speedster Rickey Henderson or versatile Tony Phillips in the role last season.

"Any hitter of quality can be a DH. There's no rule that says it has to be a power hitter," Collins contends. "It really comes down to what you most need out of that spot in the batting order."

This year, the Angels' signing of Fielder has converted Collins into a more traditional AL skipper, although he will rest rising young star Darin Erstad on occasion by swapping him with Fielder.

"There's an adjustment, a different way of thinking that goes with being a DH," Collins admits. "But I expect professional ballplayers to make that adjustment when it's required. Darin is going to be playing in the field almost all the time. But I know I can DH him once in a while and still count on his bat."

Speaking of adjustments, how about when switching leagues? Collins made changes to his personal philosophy when he moved to the AL. By contrast, Milwaukee skipper Phil Garner didn't switch leagues, but his team did. The

Brewers debuted in the NL this season, and that's just fine with the hard-nosed former infielder who spent his playing career primarily in the Senior Circuit.

"As a manager, you're much more involved in the game in the National League," Garner says. "When we were in the American League, my job was to put the lineup on the field that gave us the best chance to win. That hasn't changed, but more goes into it now. You have to anticipate the potential for late changes that you didn't usually worry about in the American League."

Still, Garner takes the flip side of the anti-DH contingent, noting that there's no credibility to the belief that NL managers are more intelligent or game-savvy out of necessity.

"The double-switch (substituting a position player at the same time as bringing in a new pitcher to preserve a spot in the batting order) isn't rocket science," Garner says. "It's more of a feel thing. You don't want to do a double-switch just for the sake of doing it."

One member of Garner's team, Marquis Grissom, is more directly critical of the AL's offensive mentality. "In the National League, you play fun-

damentally sound baseball," says Grissom, a lifetime National Leaguer until his 1997 stint with Cleveland. "In the AL, it's whoever hits last wins."

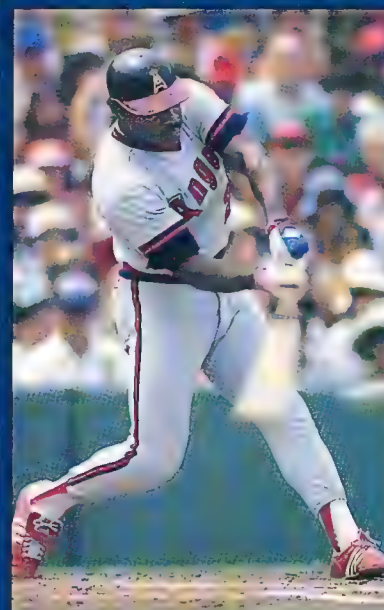
Even an AL manager famous for his preference to the three-run homer over manufacturing runs was publicly critical of the DH back in '73.

"I think the game is just fine," said Hall of Famer Earl Weaver, who guided Baltimore to two World Series appearances, including a triumph in 1983. "There's no reason in the world to change a thing."



"Being a DH is not an easy thing to do, because you can sometimes go a long time between at-bats. But I am being paid to hit well when I get to bat. It's my job to be ready."

—Mariners DH Edgar Martinez



Don-inating

It's logically difficult to justify a designated hitter being named league Most Valuable Player, yet few argued against the election of California's Don Baylor in 1979. Playing in every game that year—all but a handful in the DH slot—Baylor led the league in runs batted in (139), runs scored (120) and total bases (333) while ranking among the AL's top five in doubles (33) and home runs (36). He even paced the Western Division winners with 22 steals.

"I've never been involved with a player who so thoroughly dominated for an entire season like he did," former teammate Bobby Grich says.

The Angels lost to Baltimore in the ALCS, but Baylor's season will likely live on as one of the greatest ever enjoyed by a full-time DH, challenged only by the batting title seasons enjoyed by former Kansas City Royal Hal McRae and current Seattle Mariner Edgar Martinez.

"If you can swing the bat, you can swing the bat," says Baylor, the Colorado Rockies' manager since their inception in 1993. "I did a pretty good job of swinging the bat that particular year."



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Weaver reportedly softened his stance after employing former NL batting champion Tommy Davis as his DH in 1974. Davis finished as the league's top DH that year.

What the invention of the DH has brought to the forefront are players whose fielding prowess has waned while their hitting has remained solid.

An example is Cleveland's Geronimo Berroa. Although he endured an injury-plagued '97 season, he has developed into one of the game's most potent hitters. An outfielder, Berroa was slated to be the full-time DH when Cleveland obtained him from Baltimore prior to the season. Instead, oft-injured superstar David Justice filled the role while Berroa platooned in left-field with the much younger Brian Giles. Soon, Berroa found himself a bench player with Giles getting the majority of playing time. At that point, the DH role sounded more appealing to Berroa.

"Any way that I can be in the lineup (is fine)," Berroa told Cleveland's *Plain Dealer*. "If (Indians manager) Mike (Hargrove) asks me to pitch, I'll do that as well. I don't think he will ask me to."

While position players tussle with the idea of losing a majority of their active role, pitchers who want to hit go virtually unheard, their complaints quickly dismissed. Any belief that all pitchers would welcome the elimination of hitting from their job descriptions was succinctly put to rest by several prominent pitchers of the early '70s.

"I work hard on my hitting. I take pride in it," exclaimed Oakland hurler Blue Moon Odom. "We got guys like Catfish (Hunter) and Vida (Blue) and myself that can hit." Odom's career average was .160, though Hunter hit nearly .240 for his career.

"It's a joke," fumed California Angels pitcher Clyde Wright, the father of current Indians hurler Jaret Wright. "They're taking away part of the game. Hitting is a challenge to me."

According to former Angels statistician George Goodale, it was a challenge to just about every pitcher that ever lugged the lumber. "Sending pitchers to bat borders on surrendering without honor," Goodale insists.

Today's dilemma with the DH stretches several fronts. Most every-day players don't want to switch to the DH. Chicago's Frank Thomas is one such example. After spending his first six seasons as the full-time first baseman, rookie manager Jerry Manuel asked him to accept the DH role. To his credit, Thomas has kept his displeasure with the move out of the public spotlight.


"I prefer to play first," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I'll play wherever the lineup says to. Not my job to say or do otherwise."

Los Angeles Dodgers third baseman Bobby Bonilla rued his experience as DH with the Orioles in 1996. "I never felt like I was in the flow of the game when I was DHing," he says.

It stands to reason, though, that there have been several great National Leaguers over the years who could have benefited from the presence of a DH rule. How about Willie Mays DHing for the Mets, or Johnny Bench doing likewise in Cincinnati? Or Greg Luzinski in his prime with Philadelphia?

At least one thing remains clear. Whether the DH is retained or not, or even if the NL jumps on board someday, there will always be those who will debate its merits and those who will steadfastly defend the 25-year-old rule. ♦

Bob Cunningham is a freelance baseball writer based in Riverside, Calif. Bruce Markusen, a senior researcher for The Baseball Hall of Fame, contributed to this story.



Dave Winfield



Hank Aaron



Tony Oliva



Hal McRae



George Brett

DH Hall of Fame

A Who's Who of former stars who ended their big league careers as designated hitters could easily be established. Here are just a handful of players and the teams they finished up with: Hank Aaron (Milwaukee), George Brett (Kansas City), Orlando Cepeda (Kansas City), Tommy Davis (California), Kirk Gibson (Detroit), Reggie Jackson (Oakland), Greg Luzinski (Chicago), Hal McRae (Kansas City), Eddie Murray (Baltimore), Tony Oliva (Minnesota), Dave Parker (California), Jim Rice (Boston), Frank Robinson (Cleveland), Dave Winfield (Cleveland), Robin Yount (Milwaukee) and Richie Zisk (Seattle).

CIRCUS
[sur/kas/kech]
(sawtch)



THE INFLUENCE OF BASEBALL ON THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE IS STUNNING, STRONG AND—IN THE middle of the 1998 season—apparently at an all-time real and metaphoric high, as politicians throw “softball questions” (i.e. easy) or “hardball questions” (tough) during various hearings on Capitol hill. Everyone seems willing to settle for a rough “ballpark figure” and there are still folks who ask you to “touch base” with them. Some “can’t make it to first base” while others “swing for the fences.”

This creeping baseballese began its encroachment on the American language decades ago. “No other sport and few other occupations have introduced so many phrases, so many words, so many twists into our language as has baseball,” wrote Tristram Potter Coffin in his 1971 study of baseball lore, *The Old Ball Game*. “The true test comes in the fact that old ladies who have never been to the ballpark, coquettes who don’t know or care who’s on first, men who think athletics begin and end with a pair of goleposts, still know and use a great deal of baseball-derived terminology.”

Why is it that baseball terminology is so dominant an influence on the language? One suggestion brought up by Elting E. Morison, who posed the question in the August, 1986 “American Heritage,” was that the situations that develop as the game is played are comparable to the patterns of our daily work. He also asked if baseball imitated the fundamentals of the national life or if the national life was shaped to an extent by the character of the sport? He decided he couldn’t answer the question but did say that it had something to do with Reggie Jackson’s assertion that, “The country is as American as baseball.”

Maybe that’s it, and baseball talk is simply a reflection of our American selves. If so, it is a side that is pastoral and low key. If any image dominates the language of the game it is that of rural America. Even under a dome, it is a game of fields and fences, where ducks sit on the pond and pitchers sit in the catbird seat. New players come out of the farm system and a farmhand who pitches may get to work in the bullpen.

It is also a playful lingo not afraid to toy with the language and allusions to popular culture. One of the oddest terms to show up in the lexicon of the game is a Linda Ronstadt for a fastball. It is an allusion to her hit “Blue Bayou” and in the

yack·e·ty-yak

The American language is steeped in baseball’s Ruthian lexicon. By Paul Dixon

context of the national pastime that becomes a fastball that “blew by you.” For many years after the great sea disaster the term *titanic* described a “sinking liner.”

Although some of the terms for whacking the ball with the bat are strong (to crush, smash, powder) and base stealing is aptly named, other actions are described in absurdly mild terms. The most glaring example takes place when the ball is thrown at the batter by the pitcher. This is done in an attempt to intimidate or injure the batter. Terms associated with this act include bean and beanball, dust and duster, brush and brush back, shave and barber and, of all things, chin music. It is sometimes called a purpose pitch. As a result, such dubious behavior may lead to a noisy and sometimes violent confrontation known as a rhubarb.

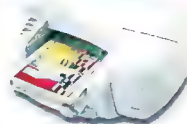
Baseballese is, indeed, an odd lingo. For example, the piling-on of modifiers in describing things is commonplace in the sport. A word like ‘single’ seldom stands naked, but is more likely to appear as something like a “broken-bat, opposite-field bloop single.”

Many words, terms and catchphrases that mean something else to the rest of the general public, possess a special meaning among the fans and followers of the national pastime. Say “blue” and one thinks of the Dodgers; mention “pinstripes” and the Yankees come to mind; and to allude to “the Mick” does not refer to the mouse.

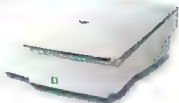
Meanwhile the time-honored custom of using a special “out of left field” vocabulary goes on among players, fans and writers. Baseball has a particular infatuation with what one

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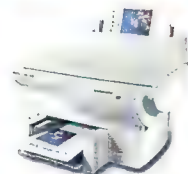
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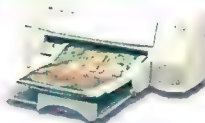
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Expanding Possibilities

yack·e·ty·yak

critic once termed “the incorrect use of correct words.” There are hundreds of examples, but the point can be made by simply listing a selection of synonyms for the hard-hit ball or line drive. It is variously known as an aspirin, a BB, a bolt, a clothesline, a frozen rope, hanging out the hemp, a pea, a rocket and a seed.

For reasons that are unclear, baseball seems driven to come up with its own terms for things that are used widely in other sports. Everywhere else teams are piloted by head coaches, but baseball insists on managers (and with rare exception dresses them like players) and all the referees are called umpires. When other sports dealt with the issue of discrimination and segregation, baseball dealt with the “color barrier.”

Substitutes are good enough for most sports, but not for baseball which insists on loading its benches and bullpens with firemen, pinch hitters, pinch runners and platoon players. Baseball players never seem to turn, they always pivot. In realms as diverse as bowling and bombing, a strike is a hit; but in baseball alone it is a miss. Out of bounds works for everyone else but baseball insists on foul territory. If the same facility is used for football on Sunday and baseball on Monday, it is transformed overnight from a stadium to a ballpark. And the locker rooms used by the football players become clubhouses for the baseball players.

Many of the terms have a particular season attached to them. Going back a decade or so we have such things as balkamania (from 1988, when so many balk calls were made), homer hanky, (introduced by Twins fans in 1987), and I-70 Series (1985 name for the all-Missouri World Series between teams—Kansas City and St. Louis—linked by Interstate-70.) Then there is the 40-40 Club for a player who hits 40 home runs and steals 40 bases in the same season. The term was around before Jose Canseco opened the club in late 1988, but it really didn't have much going for it as a term for a club with no members. Wild card was a card game term which came into baseball with 1995's first wild card teams, the New York Yankees and Colorado Rockies.

Though it is a language of tradition whose fundamentals were set up by the time Ty Cobb was playing, it is always adding new terms. What are the big, new baseball slang terms and buzzwords of 1998 that will stick? Too early to know, but it is safe to say that there will be some, as sure as there is Opening Day and the World Series.

If the past is any predictor, it will only be a matter of time before these unusual new words and phrases begin popping up in conversations that have nothing to do with baseball. For the national pastime has become a way of describing American life. If all of this reeks too much of metaphor, recall the old question of “What's a metaphor?” The answer, of course: “To play baseball on.”



TALKIN' BASEBALL

Following are just a handful of baseball terms that underscore the diversity of influences that combined to make the language of baseball so unique and remarkable:

ACE A team's top pitcher, named for the most valuable card in a deck of cards. This was probably first applied to Asa Brainard who won 56 out of 57 games for the Cincinnati Red Stockings—baseball's first professional team—during the 1869 season. The name “Asa” coupled with Brainard's accomplishment made the term all the more relevant.

AT BAT, ON DECK, IN THE HOLD A sequence of terms traditionally used in reference to the current batter, the player scheduled to bat next followed by the subsequent player in the lineup. These terms come from the language of the sea where to be “on deck” is to be on the main deck, and the “hold” is the area of the ship below the main deck, analogous to the dugout where the last batter is waiting his turn.

BATBOY SHOT A term attributed to Oscar Gamble in his playing days as a New York Yankee. It describes a home run which is hit so hard that the batter simply hands his bat to the batboy nearby and ambles around the bases.

CAN OF CORN An easily caught pop fly ball. Several theories on its origin exist. Most people believe it came from the old-time grocery store where the grocer used a pole or a

yack·e·ty·yak

mechanical grabber to tip an item, such as a can of corn, off a high shelf and let it tumble into his hands or apron, held out in front of him like a fire net.

DOUBLEHEADER Two games played in succession on the same day. Beginning in the 1870s, before this was a baseball term, it was used to describe a railroad train with two engines running back-to-back for added pulling power.

FAN An enthusiastic follower of the game. Most assume that it comes from the word fanatic. It may come from the word “fancy,” a term used in the early days of British boxing to describe a group of dandies who followed the fight game.

FUNGO A ball hit to a fielder in practice, usually by a coach using a small “fungo bat.” Many theories exist as to where the term came from, but one of the stronger is that it began as a Scottish dialect verb, fung for “to pitch, toss, fling.”

GOOD CHEESE Blurring fastball. But why cheese? Before it was applied to baseball, one slang use of the word cheese was “the best of its kind.” Fastballs are, or have been, called breezers, aspirins, smokers, sizzlers, soakers, rivets and steamers.

GRAND SLAM A home run with the bases loaded. This is a term that originated from the card game, Bridge, where it refers to the taking of all 13 tricks.

ROOKIE A player in his first season. This term is almost certainly a corruption of the military term “recruit” which was first used in the British Army.

RUTHIAN With great power; colossal—from the name and performance of Babe Ruth, often applied to a person with great abilities and strong appetites. Eponymous baseball adjectives include Koufaxian (from Sandy Koufax) for brilliant, crisp pitching and Brooksonian (from Brooks Robinson) to describe one with great defensive ability. The latest addition is Ryanesque for one who, in the manner of Nolan Ryan, displays sheer speed and overwhelming power.

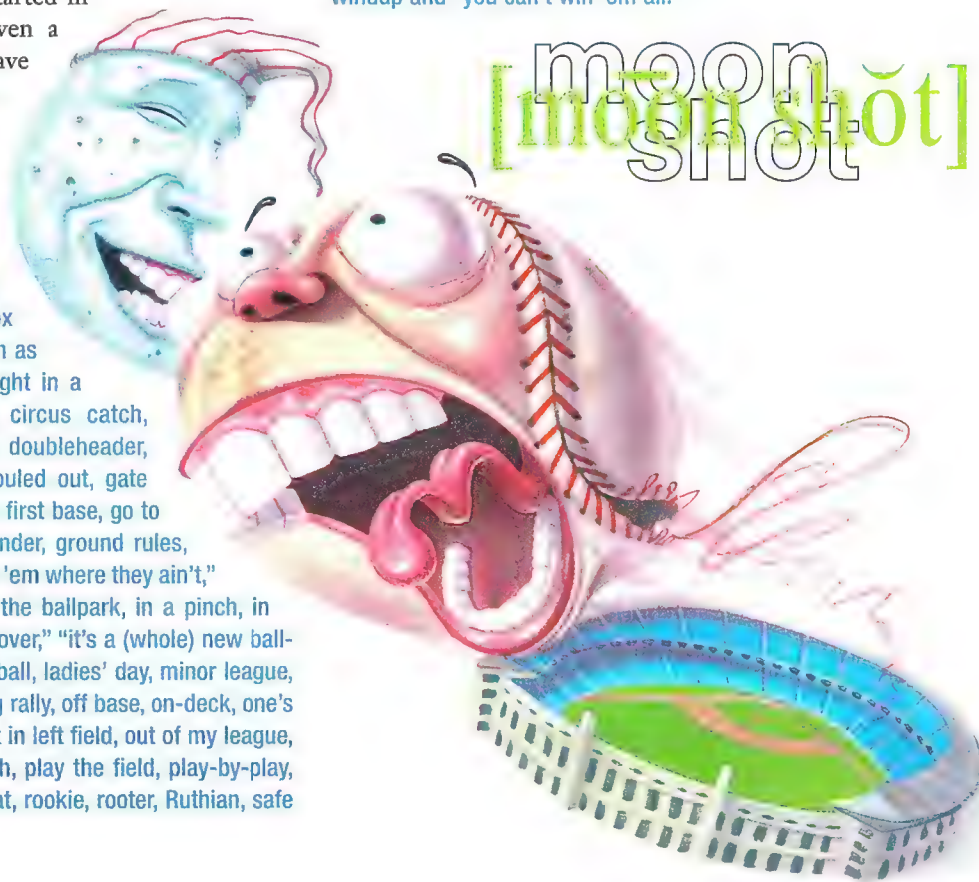
WHEELS Legs to a ballplayer. The legs are not the only re-named body part. From top to bottom players have lamps (eyes), a pipe (neck or throat), hooks (hands), wheels (legs) and tires (feet.) A player's throwing arm seems to be called everything but an arm, including a gun, hose, rifle, soup-bone, whip and wing, to name just a few.

BASEBALLESE-MANIA

The term “inside baseball” gained popularity outside baseball as a way of describing inner sanctum goings on. It is just one of a number of terms that has come out of the ballpark and become part of the language of everyday life. Perhaps the best way to drive this home is to present a partial list of terms and catch phrases that started in baseball (or, at least, were given a major boost by it), but that have much wider application. To wit:

“A” team, ace, Alibi Ike, back to back, ballpark figure, bat a thousand, batting average, bean, bench, benchwarmer, bleacher, the breaks, breeze, breeze through, Bronx cheer, bush, bush league(r), boner, bonehead, box score, bunt, butterfingers, “call ‘em as I see ‘em,” catch flat-footed, caught in a squeeze, charley horse, choke, circus catch, clutch, clutch hitter, curve-ball, doubleheader, double play, extra innings, fan, fouled out, gate money, get one's innings in, get to first base, go to bat for, grandstand play, grandstander, ground rules, hardball, heads up, hit and run, “hit ‘em where they ain’t,” hit the dirt, home run, hustler, in the ballpark, in a pinch, in there pitching, “it ain’t over ‘til its over,” “it’s a (whole) new ball-game,” jinx, keep your eye on the ball, ladies’ day, minor league, “nice guys finish last,” ninth-inning rally, off base, on-deck, one's licks, on the ball, on the bench, out in left field, out of my league, phenom, pinch hitter, play ball with, play the field, play-by-play, pop up, rain check, right off the bat, rookie, rooter, Ruthian, safe

by a mile, “say it ain’t so, Joe,” screwball, seventh-inning stretch, showboat, shut out, smash hit, southpaw, spitball, squeeze play, Stengalese, strawberry, strike out, sucker, switch hitter, team play, Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance, touch all bases, two strikes against him, “wait ‘til next year,” warm up, whitewash, “Who’s on first?”, windup and “you can’t win ‘em all.”

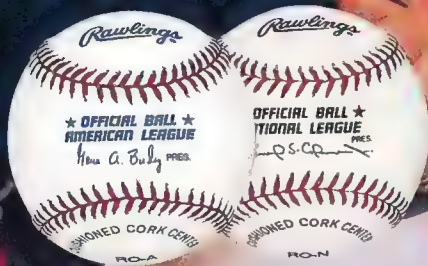


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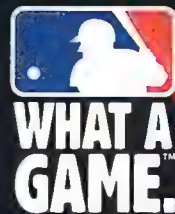
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CURRENT HITS

Want to impress your baseball buddies? Following are a handful of words and phrases that are beginning to find a home, however temporary, in baseball's ever-expanding lexicon.

BACKDOOR SLIDER Pitch that looks like it will be outside, but cuts back to catch the outside corner, often for a strike.

BAGEL A batter who goes hitless in a game, as in "He was 0-for-4, is said to have "gone bagel." Same as Ohfer.

BUCK AND CHANGE A player batting in the .100's.

DRIVE THE YELLOW BUS Said of a pitcher with heat who takes large numbers of batters to school or schools them.

EARNIES Earned runs in the parlance of some pitchers; akin to ribbies for RBIs.

GAME FULL OF LEATHER One characterized by good fielding.

GOLDEN SOMBRERO Honor bestowed on those who strike out four times in a game. Also, if you bat 0-for-4 in a game, you are said to wear the golden sombrero.

GRANNY Grand slam home run, for short.

HALOS Nickname for the Anaheim Angels.

HOOPDY-SCOOP Curveball; a good one, a yakker.

KEYHOLE FASTBALL Heat with accuracy; as if one could put it through a keyhole.

LANDING GEAR The arms when applied to a player sliding head first into a base. Broadcaster Vin Scully used the term to describe Bo Jackson sliding in the 1989 All-Star Game.

MR. KODAK A vain player, one who poses for press photographers.

MOON SHOT A big home run.

OFF THE INTERSTATE Batting over .195—the highest number for an Interstate Highway (I-95). If one is batting .200 it can be said "at least he's off the Interstate."

PINWHEEL To twirl the bat ostentatiously as one gets ready to take a pitch.

PULL THE STRING A hurler who throws effective change-up pitches.

RAINMAKER A Very high pop-fly.

RENT-A-PLAYER Refers to the practice of a team in a pennant race trading for a player in the last year of his contract. The player is being "rented" for the balance of the season.

RIBEYE/RIBBIE Improved ways of saying RBI for Run Batted In. As in "He's got 57 ribeyes and it's still June."

ROOM SERVICE An easy double-play ball.

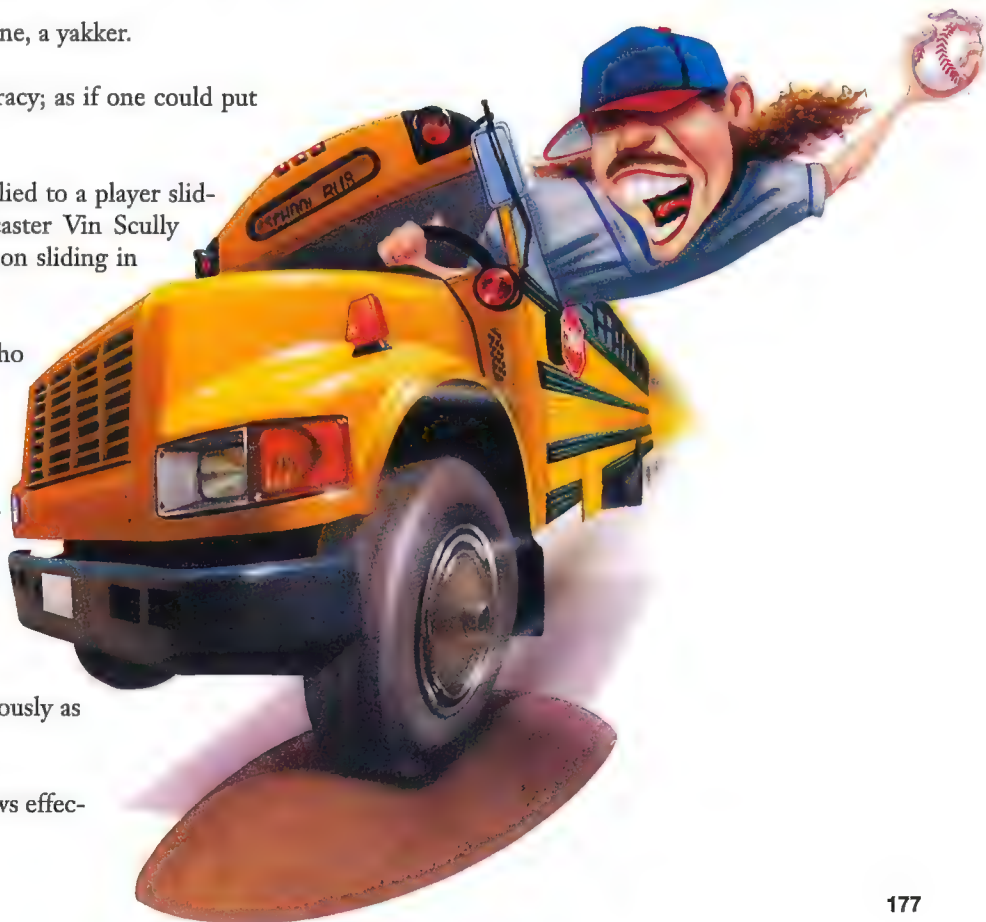
TABLE SETTER Batter whose job is to get on base for the power hitters that follow.

TEAM Short for "take one for the team," this term is used by players who shout it when they want a teammate to let himself get hit by an inside pitch.

UGLY Poorly played, as in, "We won ugly, but we won."

WET ONES The latest name for illegal spitballs.

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[drīv thə yel'ō būs]
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BEATS ME

THE ABILITY OF BASEBALL WRITERS, FANS AND PLAYERS TO come up with synonyms is astonishing. Consider, for instance, the fact that newspapers have come up with a seemingly infinite variety of choices in announcing that one team has beaten another.

Using real headlines from real newspapers: one finds that Team A can: batter, beat, beat up, belt, best, blank, blast, blow away, blow out, blow past, bomb, brawl past, breeze past, breeze to a victory, bury, burn, cage (works well with avian names "Orioles cage Blue Jays, 8-0"), can, catch, claw, claw apart, clip, clobber, come from behind, cream, cruises past, crush, darns (works only with Red and White Sox as in "Guzman darns Sox again, 5-3"), deal a loss, deep six, defeat, deflate, derail, devour, discard, dispose of, douse, down, drill, drop, drown (especially when beating the Mariners), drub, dump, edge, explode, fall, fend off, finish off, flatten, flog, fly past, foil, foiled by, frustrate, gain a victory over, gang up on, get, give the boot, get by, get past, go the distance with, gun down, halt, hand a loss to, handle, hang 10 (for a team posting a 10th victory in a row), harpoon, haunt, hold off, hose, hold off, jar, KO, knock down, knock off, lick, lifts, manhandle,

master, maul (as in "Cubs maul Cardinals"), mow down, nick, nip, notch, oust, outbattle, outclass, outduel, outlast, outmuscle, outscore, overcome, overpower, overrun, overtake, past, pick on, polish off, post a victory, pounce on (as in "Pirates pounce on pitiful Padres"), pound, pound out, power over, power past, prevail over, pull away from, pull out, pummel, punch out, put away, quell, race past, rally by, rally for, rally past, rip, rock, roll, roll by, roll over (as in "Rockies roll over Giants"), roll past, roll through, romp over, rough up, rout, rule, rule over, run past, save face, shackle, shade, shakedown, shellac, shock, shoot down, shut down, shut out, silence, sink, skin, slip past, slug it out with, smash, snap a losing streak, sneak by, spank, spill, spoil, squash, squeak by, squawk past, slips by, steal, stifles, stop, stops, stun, subdue, surprise,

stymie, swallow, swindle, take, take care of, tame (often used when Detroit Tigers are defeated), tattoo, throttle, thump, thunder, tie up, tip, tips, tiptoes past, top, topple, trap, trim,

trip, trip up, triumph, triumph over, trounce, turn back, unplug, upend, upset, victimize, wallop, wash (as in "Indians wash Sox"), wear down, whip, whitewash, wilt, win, win over, zap and zip over team B.

dispose of
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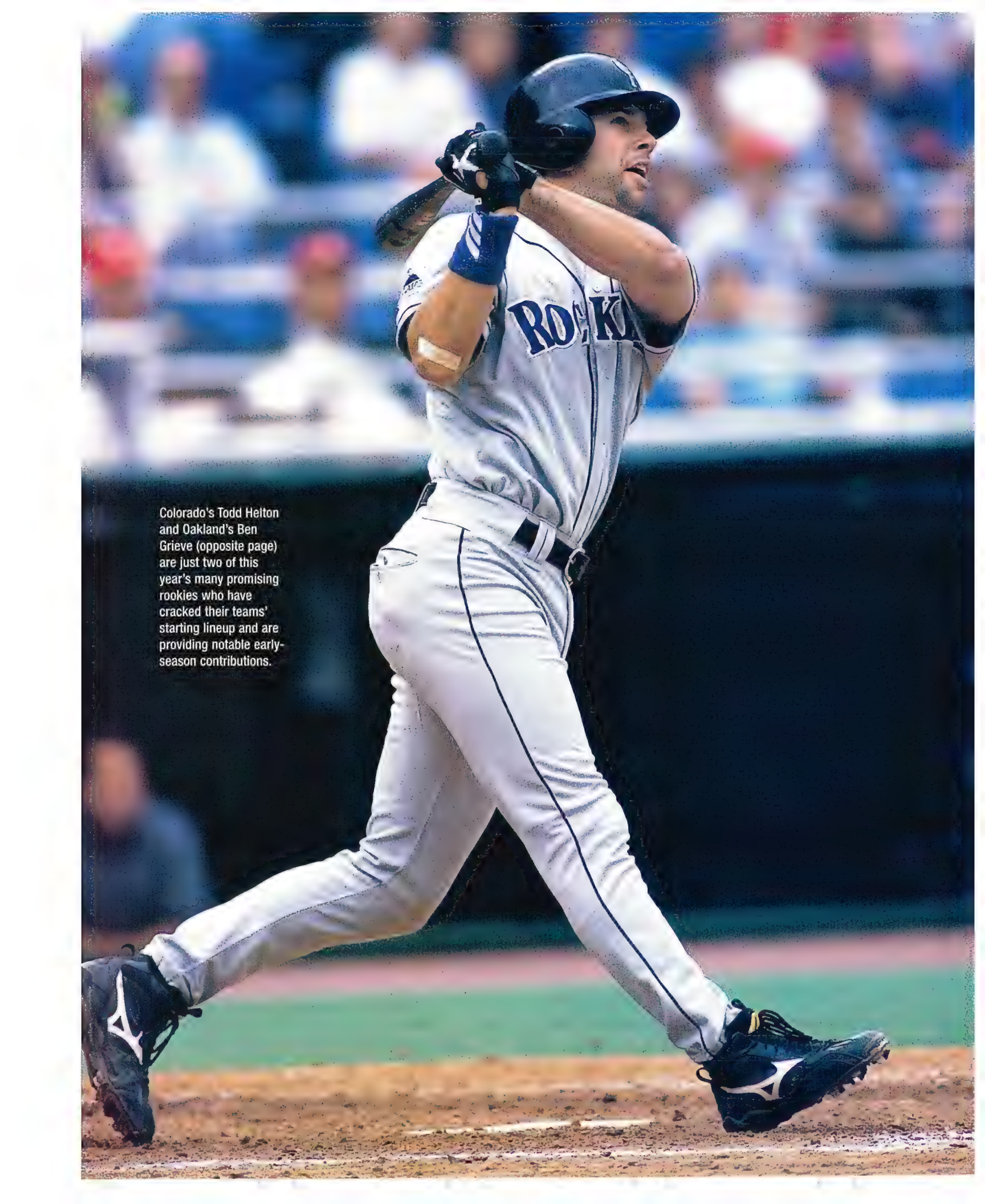
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SO MANY ALLUSIONS IN baseball are made to food and dining—including pitches that seem to fall off the table—that a fairly well-balanced diet suggests itself in terms like can of corn, cup of coffee (for a quick trip to the Majors), fish cakes (low pay in the Minors), banana stalk (an inferior bat) mustard (velocity), pretzel (curveball), rhubarb, green pea (rookie), juice, meat hand (the ungloved hand), grapefruit league and tater (home run). Among the many terms for the ball itself are apple, cantaloupe, egg, pea, potato,

pumpkin, radish and tomato. Implements? There is

the plate (also known as the platter, pan and dish) and, of course, the fork ball. Dessert? The red abrasion from a slide into a base is a strawberry and the fan's time-honored sound of disapproval is a raspberry. ♦

Paul Dickson is the author of The Dickson Baseball Dictionary, which contains 5,000 entries. The New Dickson Baseball Dictionary will be published next spring by Harcourt Brace and will contain more than 7,000 entries.

A full-page photograph of a baseball player in a white Colorado Rockies uniform, captured in the middle of a powerful swing. The player is wearing a black batting helmet, black gloves, and black cleats. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators. The text is positioned on the left side of the image, overlaid on the player's uniform and the background.

Colorado's Todd Helton
and Oakland's Ben
Grieve (opposite page)
are just two of this
year's many promising
rookies who have
cracked their teams'
starting lineup and are
providing notable early-
season contributions.

THEY'RE PRECOCIOUS, TALENTED, LOADED WITH
DESIRE...AND THEY'RE EVERYWHERE YOU TURN.
THEY'RE BASEBALL'S ROOKIE CLASS OF '98.

YOUNG BLOOD

EACH MORNING DURING THE FIRST MONTHS OF THE 1998 SEASON, Florida Marlins rookie Derrek Lee would examine box scores to see how friends and fellow rookies such as Colorado's Todd Helton and Brad Fullmer of Montreal had fared the previous evening. Arizona's Travis Lee says he caught himself doing the same thing, trying to keep track of his many contemporaries in the Majors.

"It's nice to see so many familiar names," says Travis Lee. "It's as if half the Pacific Coast League got promoted together."



BY PETE WILLIAMS



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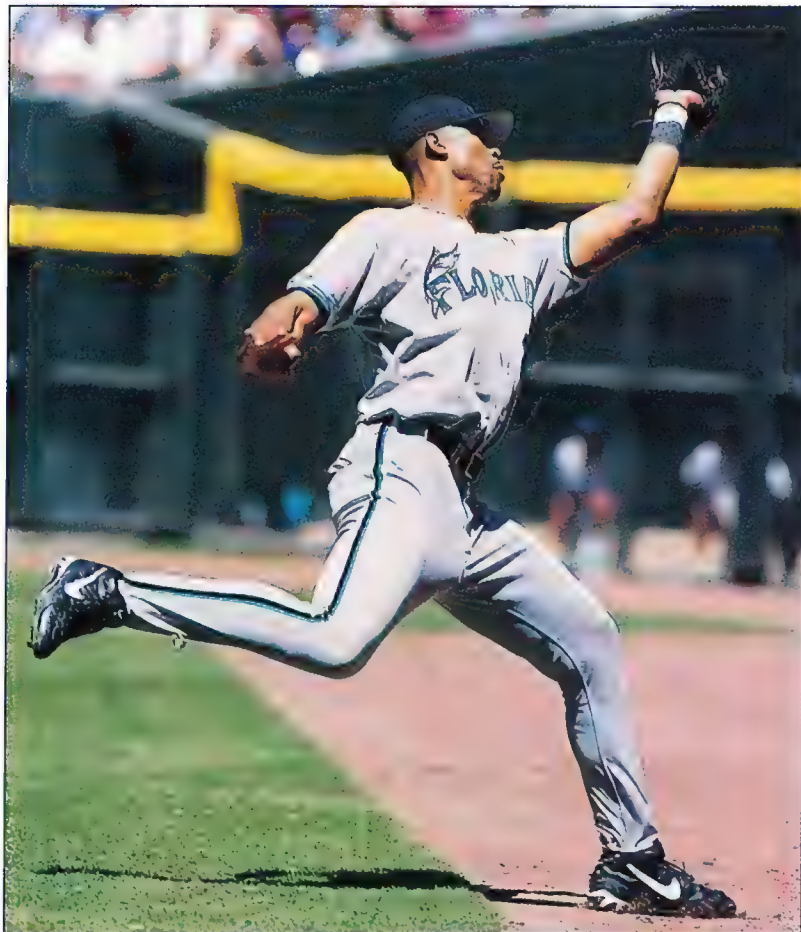
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Though Marlins' outfielder Derek Lee has struggled early this season at the plate, his power—seven homers in the first two months—keeps pitchers honest.

Rookies became so prominent in 1998 that it was difficult to get through an early season contest without a stoppage of play to retrieve the ball from a first career base hit or home run. Many veterans found themselves providing autographs and equipment to meet the ransom demands of fans who had caught the first home run balls off the bats of rookie teammates.

"We've accumulated a lot of souvenirs," says Marlins rookie Brian Meadows, one of the most promising pitchers in the class. "All of this is new for a lot of us."

And certainly to the fans. Even the most ardent Rotisserie player has had a difficult time keeping up with the '98 parade of youngsters that only promises to grow longer with late-season injuries and September call-ups.

**YOUNG
BLOOD**

Not just half the PCL, but a good chunk of the rest of Triple-A, along with a portion of Double-A and even a Class A representative. Never before has Major League Baseball seemingly offered so many jobs to so many youngsters at once.

Having spent a good chunk of their young adult lives in the Minors, the first-year men have a firm grasp of the names and faces of the more than 100 rookies who already had played in the Majors in the first month of the season alone. The rest of us, perhaps, can be forgiven if we lose track of everyone involved in arguably the most wide open Rookie of the Year races in years.

Because of expansion, international scouting and economics, rookies of all ages have taken over Major League clubhouses this season. On some teams, veterans who planned to uphold the tradition of replacing rookies' clothing with dresses for a plane trip faced a significant cash outlay. Early in the year, the Florida Marlins carried 13 rookies at times, which made the youngsters the majority.

The players seem to get younger all the time. Braves outfielder Andruw Jones, 21, had been the game's youngest player since he arrived in Atlanta in 1996 until Mike Caruso, then 20, made the successful leap from Class A ball to become the Opening Day starting shortstop for the White Sox. That distinction ended less than a month later when the Cubs promoted highly-touted pitcher Kerry Wood, who is three weeks younger than Caruso.

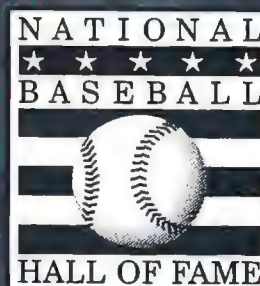
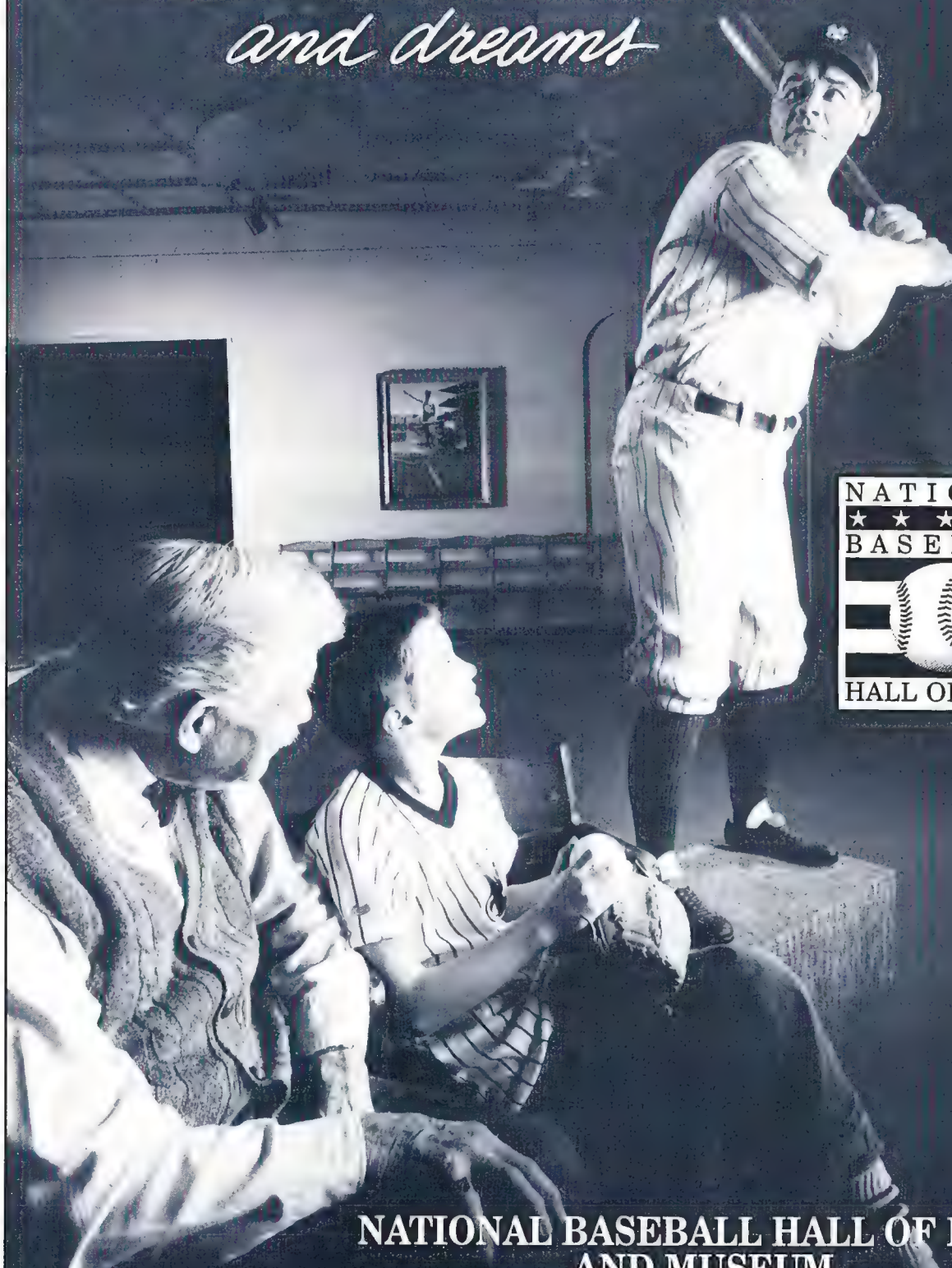
"Clubs have had to fill holes, especially because of expansion," says White Sox general manager Ron Schueler. "You'd like to have the luxury of keeping guys down for a few more months of development, but in a lot of cases teams have no choice."

With two rookie teams, it's not surprising to see so many rookies. After all, many of the players available to the Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays during the expansion draft last November had little or no Major League experience. By the end of April, the Devil Rays had used 10 rookies, including major contributors Rolando Arrojo, Rich Butler, Miguel Cairo,

ON SOME TEAMS, VETERANS WHO PLANNED TO UPHOLD THE TRADITION OF REPLACING ROOKIES' CLOTHING WITH DRESSES FOR A PLANE TRIP FACED A SIGNIFICANT CASH OUTLAY.

MEMORIES...

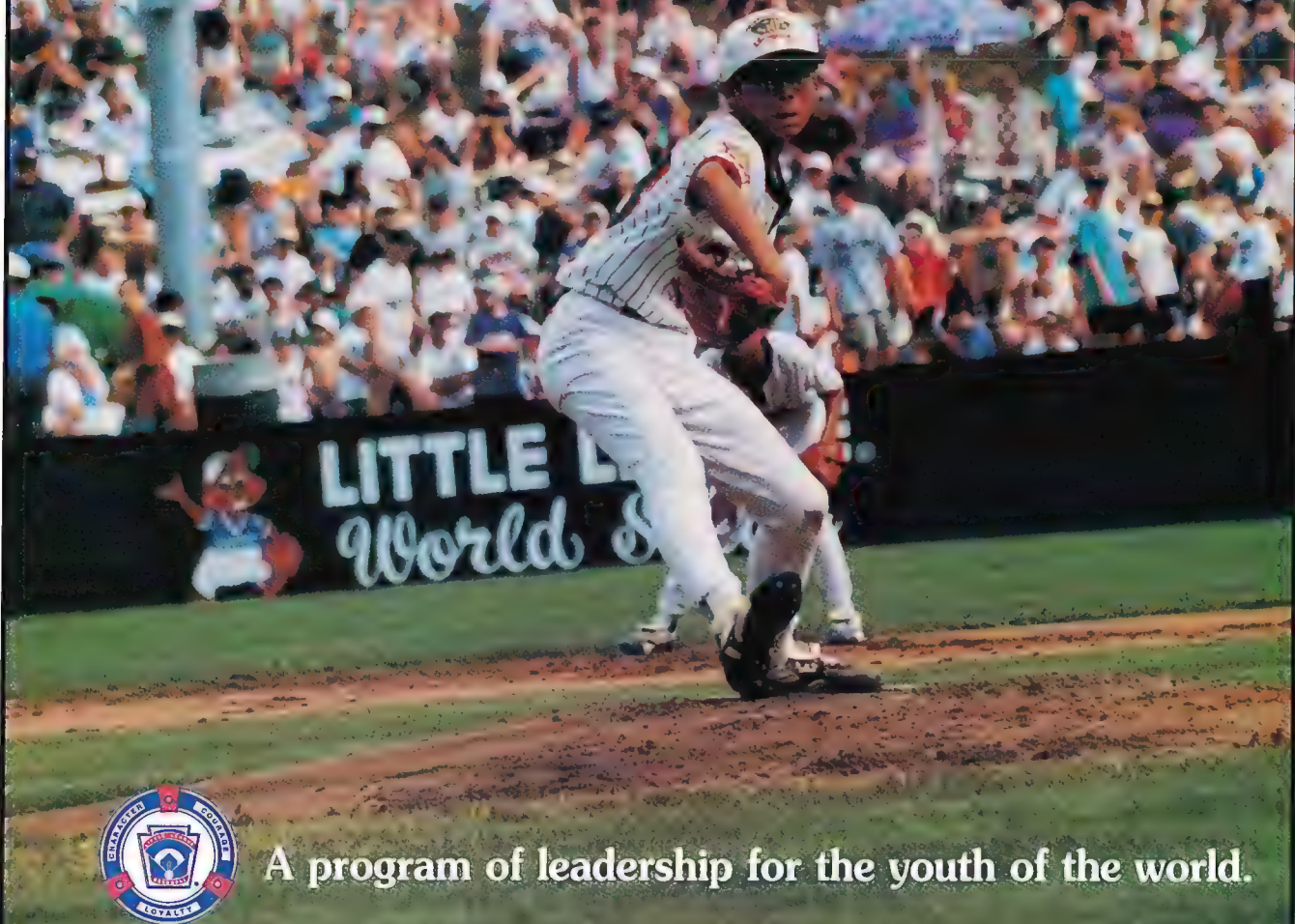
and dreams



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The city of Chicago has embraced its rookies, especially fireballing Cub Kerry Wood and White Sox shortstop Mike Caruso.

**YOUNG
BLOOD**

pick of Minnesota who was ruled a free agent and signed with Arizona, that they had no contingency plan in case he flopped. Lee proved them correct, providing the club's first hit and home run. Perhaps he felt at home playing against the Rockies, who thought so much of their own rookie first baseman, Helton, that they let Andres Galarraga sign with Atlanta during the offseason.

Helton and Lee were able to get reacquainted on Opening Day

"YOU SEE A LOT OF ROOKIES MAKING AN IMPACT AND THAT KIND OF INSPIRES YOU. YOU LOOK AT THEM AND FIGURE, 'WHY NOT ME?'"
—WHITE SOX ROOKIE SHORTSTOP MIKE CARUSO

Bobby Smith and Esteban Yan, while the Diamondbacks Opening Day lineup included Travis Lee at first, Edwin Diaz at second and Karim Garcia in the outfield.

"We've been able to give them the opportunity and they've taken advantage of it," says Devil Rays GM Chuck LaMar. "I prefer to think of them not as rookies but as young players."

Young players expected to grow up quickly, that is. With many teams committing much of their budget to a small core of players, the rest of the roster must be filled with younger, less-expensive stars, some of whom might otherwise have remained in the Minors. Says Atlanta GM John Schuerholz: "The more salaries rise, the more clubs will have to find younger guys to balance their rosters financially."

Fortunately, there appears to be young talent in abundance. Players such as Wood, the Dodgers' Paul Konerko, Derrek Lee, and Oakland's Ben Grieve have been household names in baseball circles for years. The Diamondbacks thought so highly of Travis Lee, a 1996 draft

in Phoenix, but they were hardly unique as rookie first basemen. The National League had a total of five for the early part of the season, including the Marlins' Lee, Montreal's Brad Fullmer and Konerko, who filled in when Eric Karros was sidelined. In the American League, David Ortiz took over at first for the Twins.

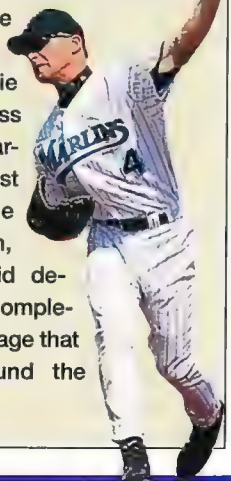
"You're inevitably going to compare yourself to them," says Derrek Lee. "You see guys you've played with before in the Minors and it's only natural."

The group is even more impressive considering the rookies still waiting in the Minors for an opening at first base as the season began, including Atlanta's Randall Simon, Daryle Ward of the Astros, Pittsburgh's Ron Wright and the White Sox' Mario Valdez.

Then there's Cleveland, which cleared some of its backlog by dealing rookie first baseman Sean Casey to Cincinnati for Dave Burba. Cincinnati GM Jim Bowden thought so highly of Casey he likened the move to the Reds 1970s acquisition of Joe Morgan. But even with the trade, Cleveland still had a surplus of corner

KOT-SAY CAN YOU SEE...

And how! Florida outfielder Mark Kot-say went from playing in the 1997 Double-A All-Star Game to earning a starting spot on the Marlins' Opening Day roster. Credit an exhaustive work ethic and a keen eye for turning him into one of the rookie Class of '98 success stories. The 22-year-old, who posted just 52 at-bats in the Show last season, has displayed solid defensive skills to complement a batting average that has hovered around the .300 mark.





The expansion Devil Rays found an early-season gem in Bobby Smith (left), who hit .330 in 106 at-bats filling in for injured third baseman Wade Boggs, while Boston is looking to turn Brian Rose into a quality starter.

infielder types, including Richie Sexson, who hit 31 homers at Triple-A Buffalo last year.

"Richie looks like he could be a very good Major League Baseball player," says Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove. "But we have guys who are very good players right now. It's a fine line. You want a guy to be ready but you don't want to keep him down for too long."

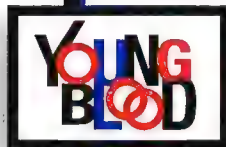
The expansion teams have caused ripple effects on rookies throughout the game. In Philadelphia, rookie Desi Relaford took over at shortstop, in part because Kevin Stocker was traded to Tampa Bay for outfielder

rookies. If Andy Benes had re-signed with St. Louis instead of joining Arizona, Cliff Politte might not have gotten an early season shot at the Cardinals rotation. Arizona draftee Jeff Suppan cleared a spot for rookie Brian Rose in Boston. And when the Diamondbacks acquired center fielder Devon White, it opened the way for Mark Kotsay to assume a full-time role with the Marlins.

It's possible to extend the rookie ripple effect further, much like that party game where Kevin Bacon is linked to any actor through a series of shared movie experiences. Take Fred McGriff, for instance. Because the Braves traded the first baseman to Tampa Bay, they

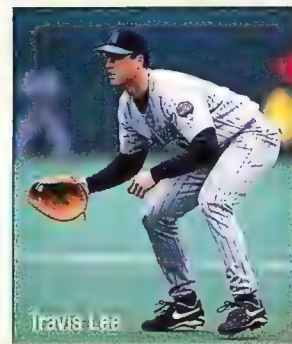
Bob Abreu. The Marlins had three rookies in their starting rotation, one of whom replaced Devil Rays expansion draftee Tony Saunders. And Jeff Abbott and Magglio Ordonez owed some of their playing time with the White Sox to Tampa Bay's signing of free agent Dave Martinez.

The Diamondbacks also caused clubs to shuffle their rosters and add



WHO'S ON FIRST?

In a nutshell, rookies. Particularly in the National League, where five first-year players found themselves manning the Big Bag on Opening Day, including Arizona's Travis Lee (who belted the D-backs first-ever home run), Colorado's sure-handed Todd Helton (one error through early-June), Florida's Derek Lee and Montreal's Brad Fullmer. Add Paul Konerko of Los Angeles to this impressive youth brigade. He played third base for the NL in the 1997 Triple-A All-Star Game (Helton held sway at first that day), but could be found across the infield at Chavez Ravine earlier this season, filling in for an injured Eric Karros. Not to be left out, the AL also has fielded a couple of promising rookies at first, including Minnesota's David Ortiz and Greg Norton of the Chicago White Sox.



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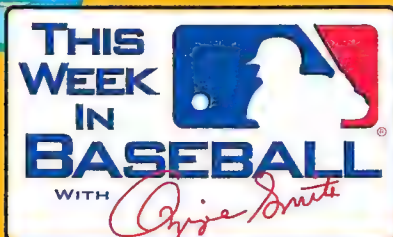
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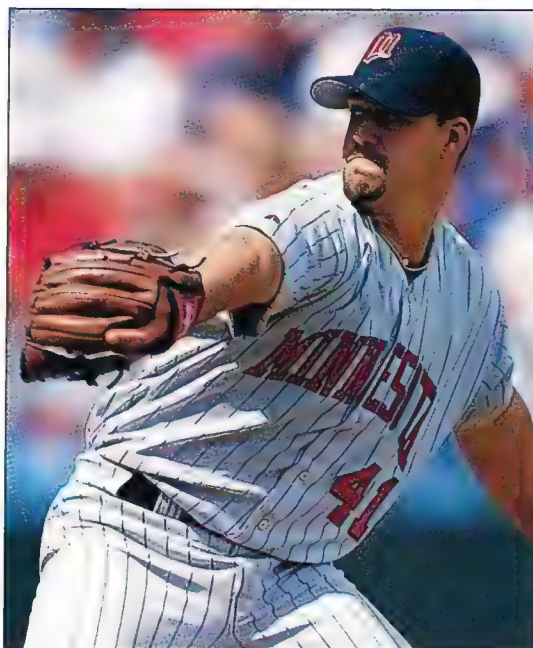
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The Cubs' Kerry Wood isn't the only rookie hurler making waves in the Bigs. Minnesota's Eric Milton (left) and Florida's Brian Meadows each tallied double-digit starts and notched complete games in the first two months.

were able to sign Galarraga away from the Rockies, who thus had a full-time job to offer Helton. The Diamondbacks, by picking catcher Jorge Fabregas in the expansion draft, forced the White Sox to sign Charlie O'Brien, whose departure from Toronto was at least partially responsible for the Blue Jays trading with Texas for rookie catcher Kevin Brown.

"A lot of what's happening is a result of expansion," says Oakland GM Billy Beane, whose club has cast three rookies in prominent roles: catcher A.J. Hinch and outfielders Grieve and Ryan Christenson. "A lot of clubs are in a position where they have to give their best young players an opportunity."

But expansion is not the only explanation. Since most rookies make only the minimum salary of \$170,000, they're particularly attractive to rebuilding teams. The Marlins used 15 rookies during the first month of the season, while the White Sox and Expos



"He just goes out and plays hard," adds White Sox manager Jerry Manuel. "He probably doesn't realize the magnitude of it all yet."

Caruso isn't the only rookie benefiting from the game's economic structure. Were it not for financial considerations, ex-Padre Derrek Lee might have begun the year in the Minors, stuck behind Wally Joyner, instead of starting in Florida. Twins left-hander Eric Milton might still be in the Yankees farm system if the

PERHAPS THE MOST OVERLOOKED REASON FOR THE ROOKIE EXPLOSION IS THE GREATER INFLUENCE PLACED ON INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LATIN AMERICA.

had each used six. Says Tigers GM Randy Smith, "The most valuable resource a team has is a player with less than three years experience who can make significant contributions and yet still be relatively affordable. If you can find those guys, you're doing well."

None seemed more unlikely than Caruso, who perhaps best represents the rookie influx. Acquired from San Francisco last summer with five other players in a financially-motivated trade for Wilson Alvarez, Roberto Hernandez and Danny Darwin, Caruso jumped from Class A ball to the Majors to replace veteran Ozzie Guillen, whose contract had become too much for the White Sox budget. Not that Caruso seemed overmatched. He immediately took his place on the American League rookie leaderboard in hits and runs.

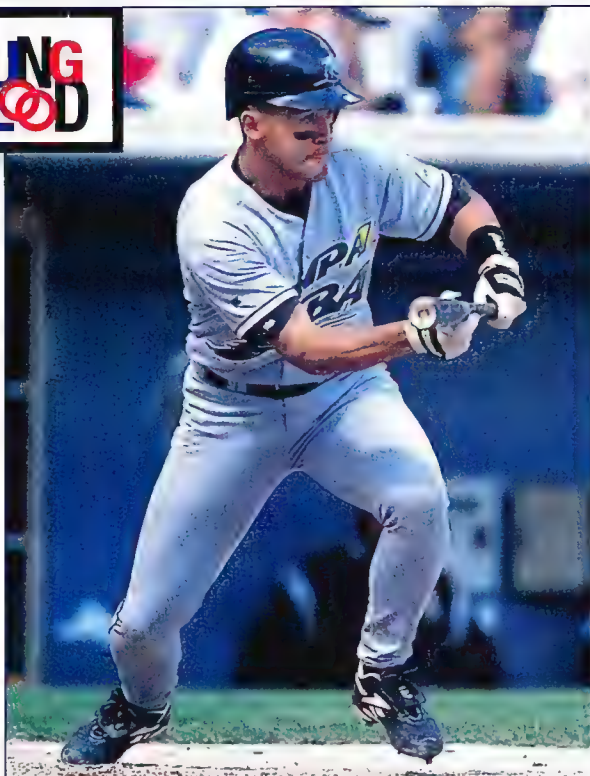
"You see a lot of rookies making an impact and that kind of inspires you," says Caruso. "You look at them and figure, 'Why not me?'"

Twins had not traded Chuck Knoblauch to New York. And any number of Expos rookies owe their jobs to the club's ongoing rebuilding process.

Not that the newcomers feel a particular burden to outperform their predecessors. Indeed, the Devil Rays and Diamondbacks have no predecessors. Derrek Lee was acquired from San Diego for a pitcher, Kevin Brown. Helton notes that he's more a contact hitter and less of a slugger than Galarraga, the man he succeeded. "I'm not the same as Andres and I hope people realize that," he says. "I mean, does anyone expect to come into the league and hit 40 homers and have 150 RBI." Adds Milton, "I don't play second base. How can I replace Chuck Knoblauch?"

Perhaps the most overlooked reason for the rookie explosion is the greater influence placed on international scouting and player development, particularly in

**YOUNG
BLOOD**



Latin America. The Rookie Class of 1998 includes prominent members from Venezuela (Cairo, Ordonez and Houston's Richard Hidalgo) and the Dominican Republic (Ortiz, Yan and Baltimore's Nerio Rodriguez).

Then, there's the influx of players from Japan and Cuba to the Majors. The New York Mets' Masato Yoshii, 32, and the Devil Rays Arrojito, 29, are hardly youngsters, but they're still considered rookies. They were joined in June by Cuban defector Orlando Hernandez of the Yankees.

The teams that can land such "rookie veterans" receive ready-made talent, albeit at an ever-increasing price. Says Fred Ferreira, Montreal's director of international scouting, "We've found we have an advantage scouting internationally since we can offer guys the opportunity to play sooner. That inevitably produces more rookies for us."

Because many of the international rookies are pitchers, baseball might not end up having quite the offensive explosion

Second baseman Miguel Cairo kicked off his first season in the Majors with a hot bat for rookie Tampa Bay.

that many expected for an expansion season. Although this year's rookie class is deep at first base, it is also pitching-rich, with Wood, Milton, Politte, Yan and Meadows, along with Marlins teammates Andy Larkin and Eric Ludwick; Sidney Ponson and Rodriguez of Baltimore, Atlanta's Kerry Ligtenberg and Jason Johnson of Tampa Bay. This wealth of talent comes on the heels of last year's fine rookie pitching class that included Jason Dickson, Livan Hernandez, Matt Morris, Rich Loiselle, Brett Tomko, Jeremi Gonzalez and Jaret Wright.

"I don't know if I buy the watered-down pitching theory," says LaMar, whose inaugural rotation includes rookies Arrojito and Johnson. "Both expansion clubs have strong rotations and the clubs that lost arms seem to have found quality replacements."

What makes the Class of '98 even more surprising is that last year's group was considered among the best in years, nailing down many of the available openings. Can this year's rookies top a '97 class that included Nomar Garciaparra, Scott Rolen, Jose Cruz Jr., Jones, Dickson, Deivi Cruz, Hernandez, Morris, Loiselle, Vladimir Guerrero, Jose Guillen, Tomko, Gonzalez, Tony Womack, Kevin Orie, Neifi Perez and Wright?

That might have seemed improbable before the season, but already a comparable list seems possible, what with Derrek and Travis Lee, Cairo, Grieve, Hinch, Smith, Fullmer, Arrojito, Kotsay, Helton, Ordonez, Politte, Milton, Yan, Yoshii, Meadows, Wood, Caruso, Ortiz, and Hidalgo. That's not including top prospects such as Anaheim's Troy Glaus, San Diego's Matt Clement and Detroit's Juan Encarnacion and Seth Greisinger, all of whom could be in the Majors by August.

By then, the Lees might have even more names to search for in their morning newspapers.

"Every ten years it seems like we have a big influx of young talent," says Schuerholz. "Part of it is economics, part of it is international scouting, but a lot of it has to do with the cyclical nature of baseball. The game has a way of replenishing itself." ♦

Pete Williams is a writer and columnist for USA Today Baseball Weekly.

OLD TIMERS

Who says this year's rookies had to be born in the '70s? With the game's burgeoning international growth, some seasoned players from other countries are getting their first crack at the Majors at an age when many of the league's veterans are well into their prime. Two such "Children of the '60s"—New York Mets' Masato Yoshii, 32, and Tampa Bay's Rolando Arrojito, 29—hail from Japan and Cuba, respectively, and are enjoying their first full seasons as big leaguers, not to mention as starting pitchers.

Through the first two months of '98, Yoshii posted an impressive 4-1 record and 2.33 ERA, while Arrojito led Devil Ray pitchers with seven wins in just 11 starts.



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ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

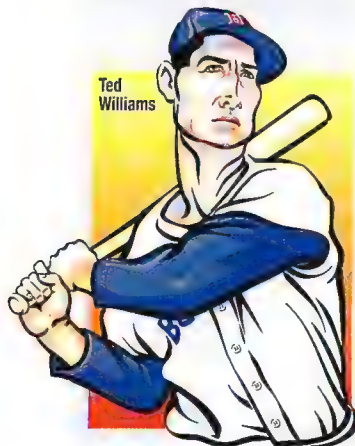
INDIVIDUAL BATTING, BASERUNNING, GAME

Most Runs, Game: 4
Ted Williams, AL, July 9,
1946.

**Most Runs Batted In,
Game: 5**
Ted Williams, AL, July 9,
1946;
Al Rosen, AL, July 13,
1954.

Most Hits, Game: 4
Joe Medwick, NL, July 7,
1937 (two singles, two
doubles in five at-bats);
Ted Williams, AL, July 9,
1946 (two singles, two
home runs in four at-bats,
also one base on balls);
Carl Yastrzemski, AL, July
14, 1970 (three singles,
one double in six at-bats),
12 innings.

**Most Times Reached First
Base Safely, Game: 5**
Charlie Gehringer, AL, July
10, 1934 (three base on
balls, two singles); Phil
Cavarretta, NL, July 11,
1944 (three bases on balls,
one single, one triple); Ted
Williams, AL, July 9, 1946
(one base on balls, two
singles, two home runs).



ROBIN KATCHANTONES

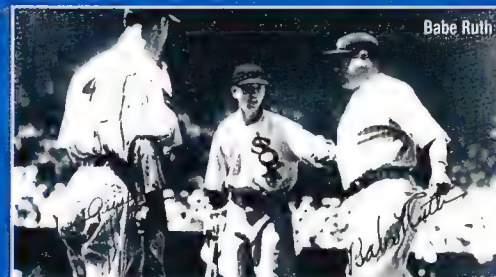
Year by Year

year by year

A Complete History of the All-Star Game

July 6, 1933 Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) AL: 4 NL: 2
"The Game of the Century" premiered with Babe Ruth
driving a Bill Hallahan fastball just inside the right-
field foul pole for a two-run homer in the third
inning. Frankie Frisch matched Ruth with a sixth-
inning blast of his own for the National League.

NL 000 002 000 2 8 0
AL 012 001 00X 4 9 1



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July 10, 1934 Polo Grounds, New York (NL) AL: 9 NL: 7
National League starting pitcher Carl Hubbell fanned
Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons and
Joe Cronin in succession as the National League jumped
to a 4-0 lead. But the American League rallied for two
in the fourth and six more in the fifth for a 9-7 win.

AL 000 261 000 9 14 1
NL 103 030 000 7 8 1

July 8, 1935 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) AL: 4 NL: 1
Jimmie Foxx supplied the offensive power with a two-
run homer in the first inning and a run-producing
single. Fireballer Lefty Gomez provided the pitching
prowess with six innings of three-hit pitching, as the
American League earned its third straight victory.

NL 000 100 000 1 4 1
AL 210 010 00X 4 8 0

July 7, 1936 Braves Field, Boston (NL) NL: 4 AL: 3
The National League defeated the American League for
the first time, 4-3, scoring twice in the second and
twice more in the fifth, while Dizzy Dean and Carl
Hubbell held their rivals scoreless through six.

AL 000 000 300 3 7 1
NL 020 020 00X 4 9 0

July 7, 1937 Griffith Stadium, Washington (AL) AL: 8 NL: 3
President Franklin Roosevelt threw out the first ball.
Lefty Gomez, starting for the American League for the
fourth time in five All-Star Games, threw out the sec-
ond, then hurled three scoreless innings. The National
League's Joe Medwick collected four hits in a losing
cause, as the American League, led by Lou Gehrig's two-
run blast off Dizzy Dean, coasted to an 8-3 win.

NL 000 111 000 3 13 0
AL 002 312 00X 8 13 2

July 6, 1938 Crosley Field, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 4 AL: 1
Rookie Johnny Vander Meer, coming off his back-to-
back no-hitters only a month before, threw three score-
less innings to pace the National League to its second
All-Star Game victory. He was complemented by Bill Lee
and Mace Brown, as the trio scattered seven hits. The
error-prone American League didn't help its cause, either.

AL 000 000 010 1 7 4
NL 100 100 20X 4 8 0



MLB PHOTOS

July 11, 1939 Yankee Stadium, New York (AL) AL: 3 NL: 1

Joe McCarthy used six of his Yankees in the starting lineup and saw them deliver four of the Junior Circuit's six hits—including a solo shot by Joe DiMaggio. Hard-throwing Bob Feller entered the game in the sixth inning with the bases loaded and one out and exited unscathed, after forcing National League shortstop Arky Vaughan to hit into an inning-ending double play.

NL 001 000 000 1 7 1
AL 000 210 00X 3 6 1

July 9, 1940 Sportsman's Park, St. Louis (NL) NL: 4 AL: 0

Boston's Max West gave the National League a three-run bulge in the first inning with a three-run dinger, and the National League won, 4-0, to record the first shutout in All-Star Game history. Manager Bill McKechnie used fresh pitchers every two innings to hold the mighty American League bats to three hits.

AL 000 000 000 0 3 1
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July 8, 1941 Briggs Stadium, Detroit (AL) AL: 7 NL: 5

A dramatic two-out, three-run homer by Ted Williams carried the American League to victory. Until Williams' drive into the upper right-field stands, the batting hero had been the National League's Arky Vaughan, who singled and cracked a pair of two-run homers.

NL 000 001 220 5 10 2
AL 000 101 014 7 11 3

July 6, 1942 Polo Grounds, New York (NL) AL: 3 NL: 1

The first war-time game was a twilight affair which started at 7:22 p.m. after a blackout test. Cleveland's Lou Boudreau, leading off the game, crushed Mort Cooper's second pitch into the upper left-field stands for a homer. Tommy Henrich followed with a double and Rudy York tagged one into the short right-field porch to give the American League all the runs it needed.

AL 300 000 000 3 7 0
NL 000 000 010 1 6 1

July 13, 1943 Shibe Park, Philadelphia (AL) AL: 5 NL: 3

Bobby Doerr's three-run homer in the second inning propelled the American League to a 5-3 victory. Led by Vince DiMaggio's three hits, the National League out-hit the American League, 10-8, but could only manage single runs in the first, seventh and ninth innings, as it lost for the eighth time in 11 All-Star Games.

NL 100 000 101 3 10 3
AL 031 010 00X 5 8 1

July 11, 1944 Forbes Field, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 7 AL: 1

The National League, led by the Chicago Cubs' Bill "Swish" Nicholson, who ignited a four-run rally in the fifth with a pinch-hit double, beat the American League, 7-1. Cub Phil Cavarretta reached base safely a record five times on a triple, single and three walks.

AL 010 000 000 1 6 3
NL 000 040 21X 7 12 1

July 9, 1946 Fenway Park, Boston (AL) AL: 12 NL: 0

After a year's interruption due to war-time travel restrictions, the American League crushed the National League in the most one-sided contest in All-Star Game history, 12-0. Three American League pitchers—Bob Feller, Hal Newhouser and Jack Kramer—combined to hold the National League to three harmless singles.

NL 000 000 000 0 3 0
AL 200 130 24X 12 14 1

July 8, 1947 Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 2 NL: 1

The National League held a 1-0 lead through five innings, courtesy of a home run by New York Giant Johnny Mize off Frank "Spec" Shea. But Shea wound up the winning pitcher when the American League scored once in the sixth and again in the seventh, on Bobby Doerr and Stan Spence singles, to provide the 2-1 margin of victory.

AL 000 001 100 2 8 0
NL 000 100 000 1 5 1

MLB PHOTOS



July 13, 1948 Sportsman's Park, St. Louis (AL) AL: 5 NL: 2

The American League, crippled by injuries to four of its top stars—Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, George Kell and Hal Newhouser—still managed to overcome a 2-0 deficit and win for the 11th time in 15 All-Star Games. The National League jumped on starter Walt Masterson for two runs in the top of the first.

NL 200 000 000 2 8 0
AL 011 300 00X 5 6 0

PILLING/MLB PHOTOS



Most Two-Base Hits, Game: 2

Joe Medwick, NL, July 7, 1937; Al Simmons, AL, July 10, 1934; Ted Kluszewski, NL, July 10, 1956; Ernie Banks, NL, July 7, 1959; Barry Bonds, NL, July 13, 1993.

Most Three-Base Hits, Game: 2

Rod Carew, AL, July 11, 1978.

Most Home Runs, Game: 2

Arky Vaughan, NL, July 8, 1941 (consecutive); Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946; Al Rosen, AL, July 13, 1954 (consecutive); Willie McCovey, NL, July 23, 1969 (consecutive); Gary Carter, NL, August 9, 1981 (consecutive).

Most Total Bases, Game: 10

Ted Williams, AL, July 9, 1946.

Most Bases on Balls, Game: 3

Charlie Gehring, AL, July 10, 1934; Phil Cavarretta, NL, July 11, 1944.

Most Stolen Bases, Game: 2

Willie Mays, NL, July 9, 1963; Kelly Gruber, AL, July 10, 1990; Roberto Alomar, AL, July 14, 1992; Kenny Lofton, AL, July 9, 1996.

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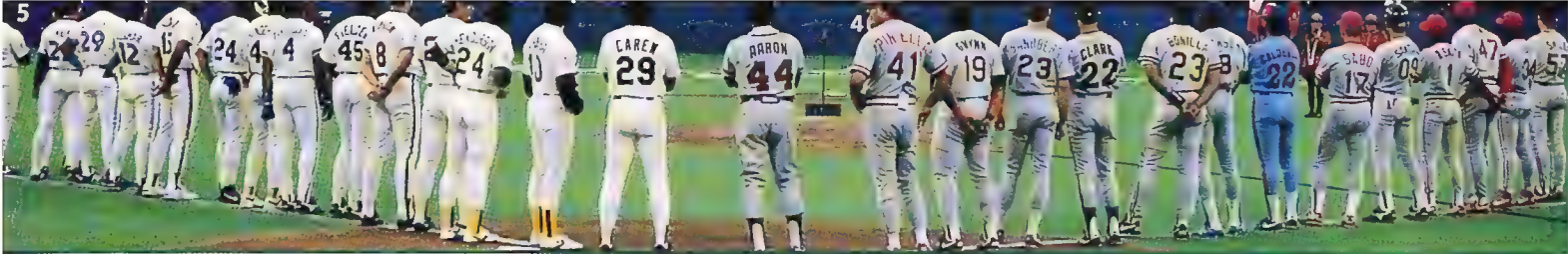


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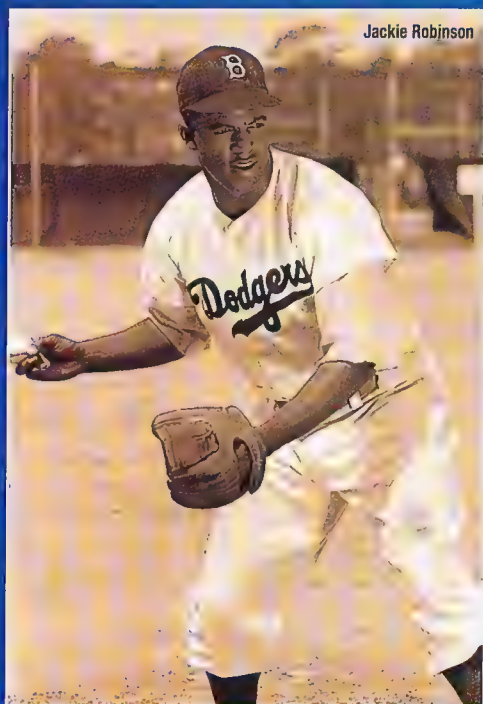
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PHOTO FILE/MLB PHOTOS



Jackie Robinson

July 12, 1949 Ebbet's Field, Brooklyn (NL) AL: 11 NL: 7
In a high-scoring affair that saw 42 players, 25 hits, 18 runs and six errors—five committed by the National League—the American League prevailed in a slugfest, for its 12th victory in 16 games. Jackie Robinson, who became the first African-American to start an All-Star Game, opened at second base for the National League, and also cracked a double. The DiMaggio brothers, Joe and Dom, combined for four RBI and the Yankee's Vic Raschi hurled three shutout innings.

AL 400 202 300 11 13 1
NL 212 002 000 7 12 5

July 11, 1950 Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) NL: 4 AL: 3
In the first extra-inning contest in All-Star Game history, the National League won a thriller, when the Cardinals second-baseman Red Schoendienst smacked a solo home run off Detroit's Ted Gray in the 14th inning. The American League had blown a one-run lead in the ninth inning when Art Houtteman surrendered a game-tying home run to Ralph Kiner. The game got off to a rough start, as Boston's Ted Williams fractured his left elbow when he collided into the left-field wall while robbing Kiner of an extra-base hit in the first inning.

NL 020 000 001 000 01 4 10 3
AL 001 020 000 000 00 3 8 1

July 10, 1951 Briggs Stadium, Detroit (AL) NL: 8 AL: 3

The National League, for the first time in All-Star Game history, won two consecutive contests, beating the American League in a slugfest. The Senior Circuit clobbered a record four homers. Six of the National League's eight runs resulted from the quartet of shots by Stan Musial, Bob Elliott, Ralph Kiner and Gil Hodges.

NL 100 302 110 8 12 1
AL 010 110 000 3 10 2

July 8, 1952 Shibe Park, Philadelphia (NL) NL: 3 AL: 2

In the only shortened All-Star Game in history, the National League came away with the victory, on home runs by Jackie Robinson and Hank Bauer. Before the game was called off by rain at the end of the fifth inning, A's left-hander Bobby Shantz struck out the side.

AL 000 20 RAIN 2 5 0
NL 100 20 RAIN 3 3 0

July 14, 1953 Crosley Field, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 5 AL: 1

The National League combined a 10-hit attack with effective pitching to capture its fourth straight All-Star Game. The offensive hero was St. Louis Cardinal Enos Slaughter, who rapped two singles, earned one walk, scored twice and drove in one run. Former Negro League legend Satchel Paige, just 47-years-young, pitched the eighth inning for the American League.

AL 000 000 001 1 5 0
NL 000 020 12X 5 10 0

July 13, 1954 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) AL: 11 NL: 9

The American League belted a record 17 hits to record the victory, 11-9, in the highest scoring contest in All-Star Game history. Despite two home runs by an injured Al Rosen and solo shots by Larry Doby and Ray Boone, the biggest hit was a bloop single by Nellie Fox in the eighth that gave the American League the win.

NL 000 520 020 9 14 0
AL 004 121 03X 11 17 1

July 12, 1955 County Stadium, Milwaukee (NL) NL: 6 AL: 5

After three hours and 17 minutes, 20 strikeouts and 23 hits, a solo home run by St. Louis slugger Stan Musial on the first pitch in the bottom frame of the 12th inning ended this marathon. Milwaukee's Gene Conley, who struck out the side in the 12th, was the winning pitcher, while Boston's Frank Sullivan got the loss.

AL 400 001 000 000 5 10 2
NL 000 000 230 001 6 13 1

Stealing Home, Game: 1

Harold "Pie" Traynor, NL, July 10, 1934 (front end of a double steal with Mel Ott in the fifth inning).

INDIVIDUAL BATTING, BASERUNNING, FIELDING, CAREER

Most Games: 24

Stan Musial, NL, 1943-63 (consecutive); Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (consecutive); Hank Aaron, NL, 1954-74 (23 games), AL, 1975 (one game).

Most Games, Pinch-Hitter: 10

Stan Musial, NL

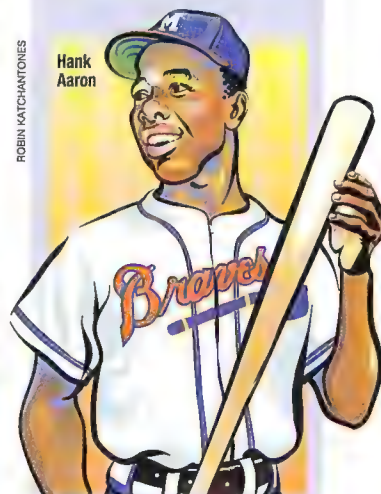
Highest Batting Average, Five or More Games: .500
Charlie Gehringer, AL, 1933-38 (10-20 in six games).

Most At-Bats: 75
Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Runs: 20
Willie Mays, NL (24 games).

Most Consecutive Games Batting Safely: 7

Mickey Mantle, AL, 1954-58, 1959 (second game), 1960 (second game); Joe Morgan, NL, 1970, 1972-77. Dave Winfield, AL, 1982-88.



ROBIN KATCHANTONES



PALMER/MLB PHOTOS



ROBIN KATCHANTONES

Most Two-Base Hits: 7
Dave Winfield, NL, 1977-80, AL, 1981-88 (12 games).

Most Three-Base Hits: 3
Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games); Brooks Robinson, AL, 1960-74 (18 games).

Most Career Home Runs
Nine players have hit three or more home runs in All-Star Game competition: Stan Musial, 6 (in 24 games played); Fred Lynn, 4, (nine games); Ted Williams, 4, (18 games); Johnny Bench, 3 (12 games); Gary Carter, 3, (eight games); Rocky Colavito, 3, (nine games); Harmon Killebrew, 3, (11 games); Ralph Kiner, 3, (five games; accomplished feat in consecutive All-Star Games, 1949-51); Willie Mays, 3, (24 games).

Most Consecutive Games Hitting Home Run: 3
Ralph Kiner, NL, 1949-51.

Most Total Bases: 40
Stan Musial, NL, 1943-63 (24 games); Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games).

Most Bases on Balls: 11
Ted Williams, AL, 1940-60 (18 games).

July 10, 1956 Griffith Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 7 AL: 3
The National League pounded out 11 hits, including home runs by Willie Mays and Stan Musial, to win for the sixth time in seven games. The game's hero was St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Ken Boyer, who finished 3-for-5 and turned in three acrobatic fielding plays.

NL 001 211 200 7 11 0
AL 000 003 000 3 11 0

July 9, 1957 Busch Stadium, St. Louis (NL) AL: 6 NL: 5
An avalanche of votes from Cincinnati elected Reds to eight National League starting positions. The only non-Red was first baseman Stan Musial. Commissioner Ford Frick arbitrarily named Willie Mays and Hank Aaron to the starting team, but the American League still won.

AL 020 001 003 6 10 1
NL 000 000 203 5 9 1

July 8, 1958 Memorial Stadium, Baltimore (AL) AL: 4 NL: 3
The Diamond Jubilee Game featured 13 hits—all singles—as the American League won, 4-3. The first hit came on the game's first pitch, to San Francisco's Willie Mays, who later scored. But two American League singles in the sixth by Frank Malzone and Gil McDougald provided the difference for the American League.

NL 210 000 000 3 4 2
AL 110 011 00X 4 9 2

July 7, 1959 Forbes Field, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4
The All-Star Game, a Midsummer fixture since 1933, became a double feature in 1959. Two games were scheduled to help give the players' pension fund a boost. The National League captured the first contest by a run, but the American League earned the split a month later on the strength of three home runs.

AL 000 100 030 4 8 0
NL 100 000 22X 5 9 1

August 3, 1959 Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles (NL) AL: 5 NL: 3
AL 012 000 110 5 6 0
NL 100 010 100 3 6 3

July 11, 1960 Municipal Stadium, Kansas City (AL) NL: 5 AL: 3
The National League won both All-Star Games, in what would become the only year this was accomplished. The "Senior Circuit" edged the American League in the first game, then won the second on three hits by Willie Mays, four home runs, and shutout pitching by six pitchers.

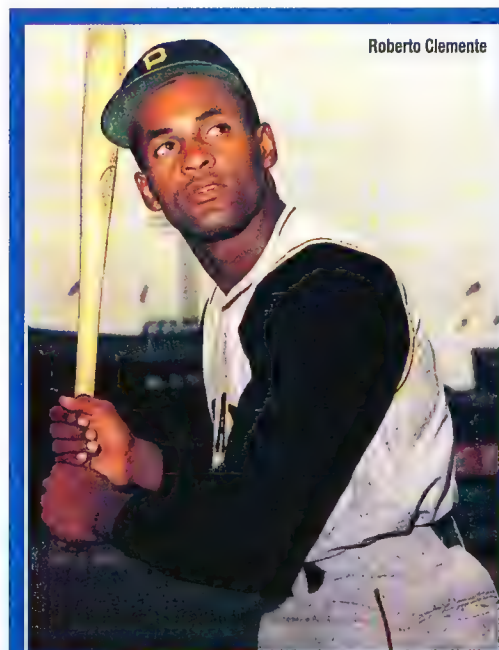
NL 311 000 000 5 12 4
AL 000 001 020 3 6 1

July 13, 1960 Yankee Stadium, New York (AL) NL: 6 AL: 0
NL 021 000 102 6 10 0
AL 000 000 000 0 8 0

July 11, 1961 Candlestick Park, San Francisco (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4
Even though it out-hit the American League 11-4 in the first All-Star Game of 1961, the National League still had to rally in the bottom of the 10th to win. History was made in the second game, as rain stopped play after nine innings, making it the only All-Star Game tie.

AL 000 001 002 1 4 4 2
NL 010 100 010 2 5 11 5

July 31, 1961 Fenway Park, Boston (AL) NL: 1 AL: 1
NL 000 001 000 1 5 1
AL 100 000 000 1 4 0 RAIN



Roberto Clemente

PHOTO FILE/MLB PHOTOS

July 10, 1962 D.C. Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 3 AL: 1
In the final year of two All-Star Games, the leagues traded wins. The National League grabbed the opener thanks to three hits by Roberto Clemente. The American League evened things up—and won its last Midsummer Classic during the 1960s—on home runs by Pete Runnels, Leon Wagner and Rocky Colavito.

NL 000 002 010 3 8 0
AL 000 001 000 1 4 0

July 30, 1962 Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 9 NL: 4
AL 001 201 302 9 10 0
NL 010 000 111 4 10 4

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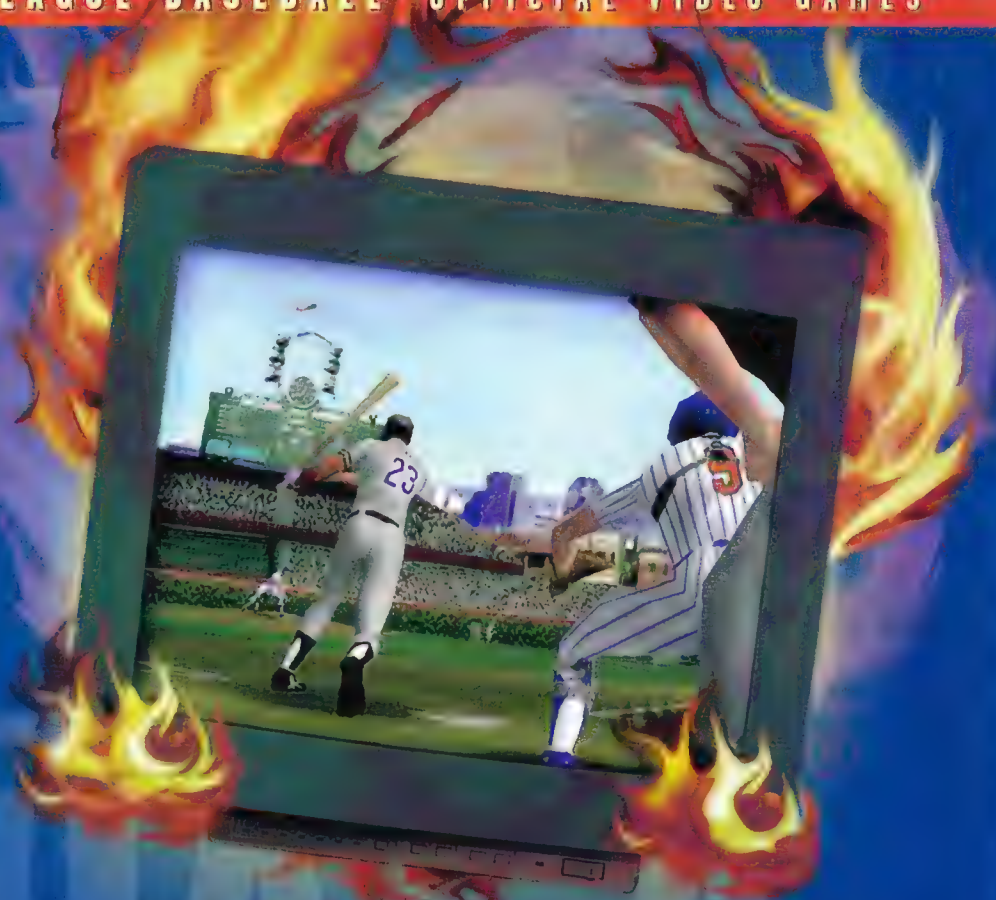
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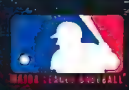
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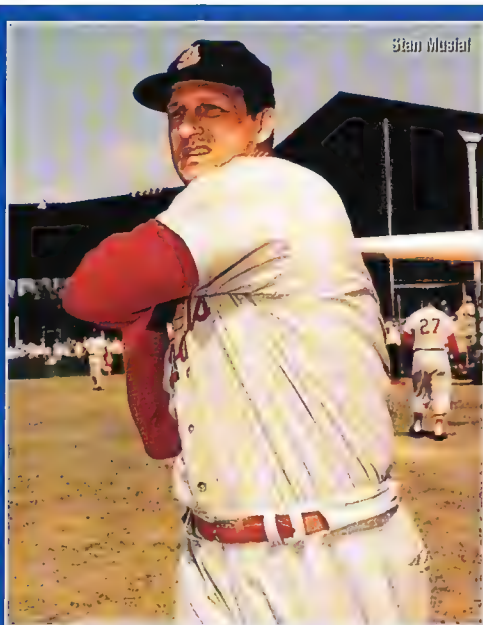
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MLB PHOTOS



Stan Musial

July 9, 1963 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) NL: 5 AL: 3
The National League used just six hits, all singles, to earn the victory. San Francisco slugger Willie Mays starred, as he collected one hit, drove in two runs, scored twice, and stole two bases. Stan Musial set a record with his 24th All-Star Game appearance.

NL 012 010 100 5 6 0
AL 012 000 000 3 11 1

July 7, 1964 Shea Stadium, New York (NL) NL: 7 AL: 4

The National League rallied for four runs in the bottom of the ninth to win. Willie Mays led off with a walk and stole second. Orlando Cepeda drove in Mays to tie the game and went to second on Joe Pepitone's throwing error. After Johnny Edwards was intentionally walked, Johnny Callison homered over the right-field wall.

AL 100 002 100 4 9 1
NL 000 210 004 7 8 0

July 13, 1965 Metropolitan Stadium, Minnesota (AL) NL: 6 AL: 5

With Juan Marichal facing the minimum of nine batters over the first three innings, the National League breezed to an early 5-0 lead. But the American League stormed back to tie things up on a pair of two-run shots by Dick McAuliffe and Harmon Killebrew. The National League broke the deadlock in the seventh when Willie Mays scored on a Ron Santo infield hit.

NL 320 000 100 6 11 0
AL 000 140 000 5 8 0

July 12, 1966 Busch Stadium, St. Louis (NL) NL: 2 AL: 1

In a pitchers' battle highlighted by Denny McLain's three perfect innings, the National League eventually triumphed on a Maury Wills single in the 10th inning.

AL 010 000 000 0 1 6 0
NL 000 100 000 1 2 6 0

July 11, 1967 Anaheim Stadium, California (AL) NL: 2 AL: 1

The National League squeaked by with a 15-inning victory, the longest contest in All-Star Game history. All three runs came courtesy of the long ball, the first by National Leaguer Richie Allen, the second by Brooks Robinson, and the game-winner by Tony Perez.

NL 010 000 000 001 2 9 0
AL 000 001 000 000 000 1 8 0

July 9, 1968 Astrodome, Houston (NL) NL: 1 AL: 0

For the third consecutive year, the All-Star Game was highlighted by overpowering pitching. The two leagues combined for just eight hits and one run, which was earned by the National League in the first inning on a single, an error, a wild pitch and a double play.

AL 000 000 000 0 3 1
NL 100 000 00X 1 5 0

July 23, 1969 RFK Memorial Stadium, Washington (AL) NL: 9 AL: 3

Detroit's Denny McLain, the American League's starting pitcher, arrived too late to start the game. By the time he entered the contest in the fourth inning, the National League had accumulated eight runs, including two-run blasts by Johnny Bench and Willie McCovey.

NL 125 100 000 9 11 0
AL 011 100 000 3 6 2

July 14, 1970 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati (NL) NL: 5 AL: 4

The National League erupted for three runs in the ninth to force extra innings. In the 12th, Pete Rose notched the game-winner on a Jim Hickman single when catcher Ray Fosse dropped the ball following a collision at the plate.

AL 000 001 120 000 4 12 0
NL 000 000 103 001 5 10 0

July 13, 1971 Tiger Stadium, Detroit (AL) AL: 6 NL: 4

The American League snapped an eight-game losing streak by belting three two-run homers. The six home runs by six different players tied an All-Star Game record.

NL 021 000 010 4 5 0
AL 004 002 00X 6 7 0

Most Strikeouts: 17
Mickey Mantle, AL, 1953-68 (16 games).

Most Stolen Bases: 6
Willie Mays, NL, 1954-73 (24 games).

Most Fielding Positions Played: 5
Pete Rose, NL, 1965-82, 85, second base, left field, right field, third base, first base (16 games).

CLUB BATTING, BASERUNNING, GAME

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, One Club: 44
AL, July 14, 1992.

Most Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, Both Clubs: 83
AL (44), NL (39), July 14, 1992.

Fewest Official At-Bats, Nine-Inning Game, One Club: 27
July 9, 1968 (eight innings).

Most Runs, Game, Both Clubs: 20
AL (11), NL (9), July 13, 1954.



Fred Lynn

PILLING/MLB PHOTOS



PILLING/MLB PHOTOS



Jimmy Wynn

Most Hits, Game, One Club: 19
AL, July 14, 1992.

Most Hits, Game, Both Clubs: 31
AL (17), NL (14), July 14, 1954;
AL (19), NL (12), July 14, 1992.

Back-to-Back Home Runs: 4
Al Rosen and Ray Boone, AL, July 13, 1954, third inning; Ted Williams and Mickey Mantle, AL, July 10, 1956, sixth inning; Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn, July 15, 1975, second inning; Bo Jackson and Wade Boggs, AL, July 11, 1989, first inning.

Most Two-Base Hits, Game, Both Clubs: 7
AL (5), NL (2), July 12, 1949; AL (4), NL (3), July 13, 1993.

Most Home Runs, Inning, Both Clubs: 3
NL, 2 (Musial, Elliott), AL, 1 (Wertz), July 10, 1951, fourth inning; AL, 2 (Jackson, F. Robinson), NL, 1 (Aaron), July 13, 1971, third inning.

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July 25, 1972 Atlanta Stadium, Atlanta (NL) NL: 4 AL: 3
Cookie Rojas' two-run homer gave the American League a 3-2 lead heading into the ninth. But the National League tied things up in the bottom half of the frame, then won in the 10th on a Joe Morgan RBI single.

AL 001 000 020 0 3 6 0
NL 000 002 001 1 4 8 0

July 24, 1973 Royals Stadium, Kansas City (AL) NL: 7 AL: 1
MVP Bobby Bonds replaced starter Billy Williams in the fourth inning then smacked a two-run homer in the fifth inning as the National League earned the victory.

NL 002 122 000 7 10 0
AL 010 000 000 1 5 0

July 23, 1974 Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 7 AL: 2
American League President Lee MacPhail, noting that his league had just one victory over the last 11 All-Star Games, instructed Dick Williams to use the best talent available. But the National League still won, 7-2.

AL 002 000 000 2 4 1
NL 010 210 12X 7 10 1

July 15, 1975 County Stadium, Milwaukee (AL) NL: 6 AL: 3
The National League's 2-0 lead included homers by Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn, but Carl Yastrzemski later tied it with a three-run blast. In the ninth, American League outfielders misplayed two balls leading to three NL runs.

NL 021 000 003 6 13 1
AL 000 003 000 3 10 1

July 13, 1976 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia (NL) NL: 7 AL: 1
The National League continued its dominance in the All-Star Game with its 13th win in the last 14 contests. George Foster and Cesar Cedeno each hit two-run shots.

AL 000 100 000 1 5 0
NL 202 000 03X 7 10 0

July 19, 1977 Yankee Stadium, New York (AL) NL: 7 AL: 5
Joe Morgan opened the game with a homer off Jim Palmer. By the time the inning had ended, the National League had scored four runs en route to a 7-5 victory.

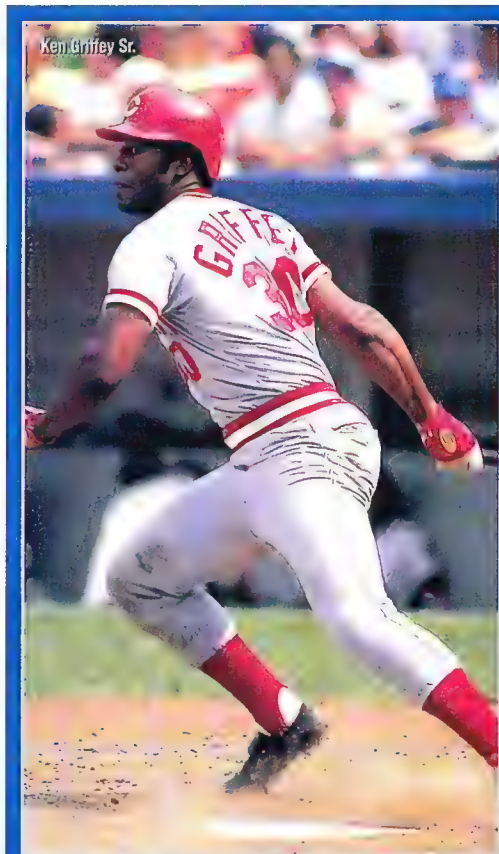
NL 401 000 020 7 9 1
AL 000 002 102 5 8 0

July 11, 1978 San Diego Stadium, San Diego (NL) NL: 7 AL: 3
The National League shook starter Vida Blue for three runs in the bottom of the third and then scored four more off Rich Gossage in the eighth to win once again.

AL 201 000 000 3 8 1
NL 003 000 04X 7 10 0

July 17, 1979 Seattle Kingdome, Seattle (AL) NL: 7 AL: 6
Lee Mazzilli clubbed an opposite-field homer in his first All-Star at-bat to tie the score in the eighth inning. In the ninth, he walked to force in the winning run.

NL 211 001 011 7 10 0
AL 302 001 000 6 10 0



Ken Griffey Sr.

PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

July 8, 1980 Dodgers Stadium, Los Angeles (NL) NL: 4 AL: 2
After spotting the American League a 2-0 lead on Fred Lynn's two-run shot, the National League rallied on a single and a homer by Ken Griffey Sr. to win.

AL 000 020 000 2 7 1
NL 000 012 10X 4 7 0

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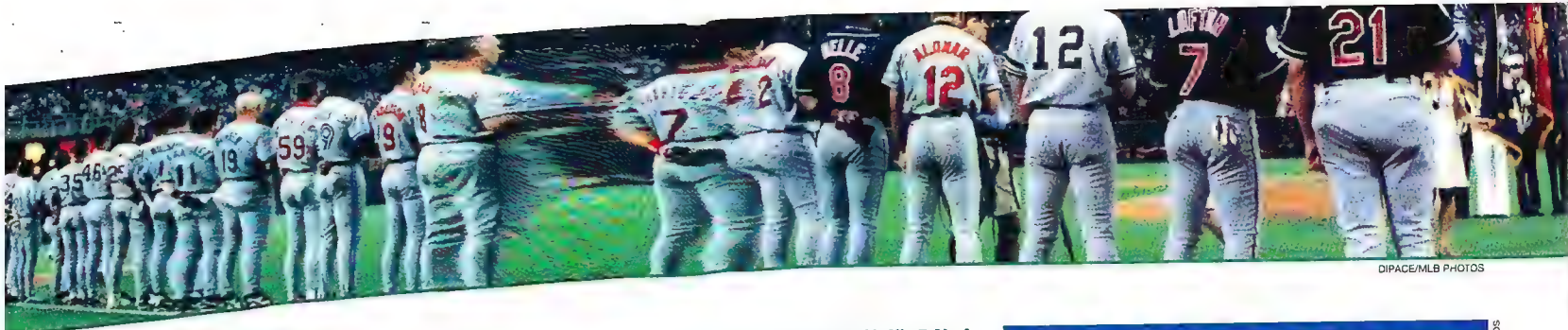
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Visual Pitching

Games Pitched: 8
 Bunning, AL, 1957,
 9 (first game), 1961
 1962 (first game),
 3, NL, 1964, 1966; Don
 sdale, NL, 1959 (2),
 52 (first game), 1963,
 64, 1965, 1967, 1968;
 an Marichal, NL, 1962
), 1964, 1965, 1966,
 167, 1968, 1971; Tom
 aever, NL, 1967, 1968,
 970, 1973, 1975, 1976,
 977, 1981.

**Most Consecutive Games
 Pitched: 6**
 Ewell Blackwell, NL, 1946-
 51; Early Wynn, AL, 1955-
 59 (both games in 1959).

Most Games Won: 3
 Lefty Gomez, AL, 1933,
 1935, 1937.



Don Drysdale

PHOTO FILE/MLB PHOTOS

August 9, 1981 Municipal Stadium, Cleveland (AL) NL: 5 AL: 4
 The largest crowd in All-Star Game history saw the
 National League score all of its runs on homers and
 stretch its winning streak to 10 games. Mike Schmidt's
 two-run blast in the eighth proved the game winner.

NL	000	011	120	5	9	1
AL	010	003	000	4	11	1

July 13, 1982 Olympic Stadium, Montreal (NL) NL: 4 AL: 1
 This represented the first All-Star Game played outside
 the United States. But the change in venue didn't help
 the American League, as Dave Concepcion drilled a two-
 run homer to lead the National League to victory.

AL	100	000	000	1	8	2
NL	021	001	00X	4	8	1

July 6, 1983 Comiskey Park, Chicago (AL) AL: 13 NL: 3
 The American League celebrated the All-Star Game's
 50th Anniversary—and a victory—at the site of the
 first game, Comiskey Park. An 11-game losing streak
 was snapped courtesy of a seven-run outburst in the third.

NL	100	110	000	3	8	3
AL	117	000	22X	13	15	2

July 10, 1984 Candlestick Park, San Francisco (NL) NL: 3 AL: 1
 The National League returned to winning form thanks
 to home runs by Gary Carter and Dale Murphy and stel-
 lar pitching by Dwight Gooden and Fernando Valenzuela.

AL	010	000	000	1	7	2
NL	110	000	01X	3	8	0

July 16, 1985 Metrodome, Minnesota (AL) NL: 6 AL: 1
 The American League managed just five singles and one
 unearned run as five National League pitchers, includ-
 ing LaMarr Hoyt and Nolan Ryan, served up the heat.

NL	011	020	002	6	9	1
AL	100	000	000	1	5	0

July 15, 1986 Astrodome, Houston (NL) AL: 3 NL: 2
 Fernando Valenzuela fanned five consecutive batters to tie
 Carl Hubbell's 52-year-old All-Star Game record. The
 American League still triumphed thanks to two home runs.

AL	020	000	100	3	5	0
NL	000	000	020	2	5	1



MLB PHOTOS

July 14, 1987 Alameda City Coliseum, Oakland (AL) NL: 2 AL: 0
 Pitching dominated as the teams battled through
 12 scoreless innings. But Tim Lincecum's triple to left-
 center in the 13th inning scored Ozzie Virgil and
 Hubie Brooks for a 2-0 National League victory.

NL	000	000	000	000	2	2	8	2
AL	000	000	000	000	0	0	6	1

July 12, 1988 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati (NL) AL: 2 NL: 1
 Terry Steinbach's MVP performance led the American
 League back into the win column. The Oakland slug-
 ger homered in his first All-Star Game at-bat in the
 third and drove in the game-winner in the fourth.

AL	001	100	000	2	6	2
NL	000	100	000	1	5	0

July 11, 1989 Anaheim Stadium, California (AL) AL: 5 NL: 3
 Bo Jackson led off the bottom of the first with a home
 run in his first All-Star Game at-bat and Wade Boggs fol-
 lowed with his own shot, to lead the American League
 to back-to-back wins for the first time since 1957-58.

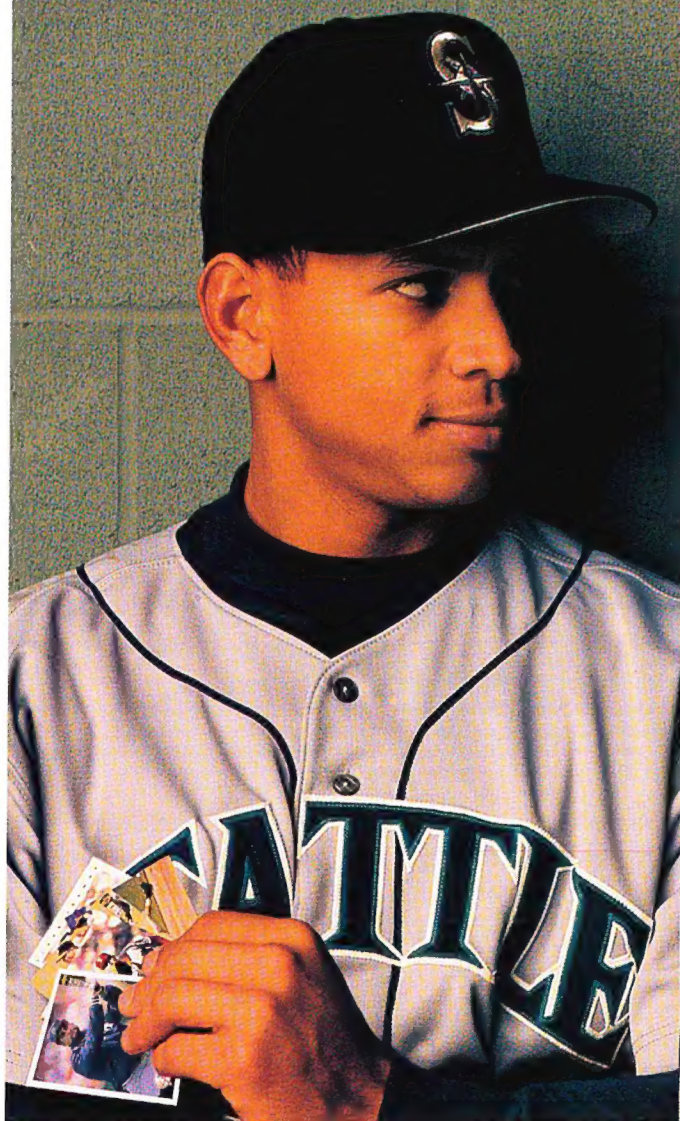
NL	200	000	010	3	9	1
AL	212	000	00X	5	12	0

July 10, 1990 Wrigley Field, Chicago (NL) AL: 2 NL: 0
 Wrigley Field, the last bastion of daytime baseball,
 hosted its third All-Star Game and its first under lights.
 The American League won its third in a row, as its
 pitchers, led by Bob Welch, surrendered just two hits.

AL	000	000	200	2	7	0
NL	000	000	000	0	2	1

"I like reading about hitters,
since they so rarely
make it to second where
we can meet."

"And I like
having the shortstop's picture,
since he's usually facing
the fence, watching my ball
go over it."



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PILLING/MLB PHOTOS

July 9, 1991 Skydome, Toronto (AL) AL: 4 NL: 2
Cal Ripken's three-run blast in the bottom of the third inning, following singles by Rickey Henderson and Wade Boggs, helped the American League earn the victory in just the second All-Star Game ever held in Canada. Andre Dawson hit a homer in a losing effort.

NL 100 100 000 2 10 1
AL 003 000 10X 4 8 0

July 14, 1992 Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego (NL) AL: 13 NL: 6
The American League chased starter Tom Glavine with four runs on seven consecutive singles in the first inning. Ken Griffey Jr. went 3-for-3 with a home run, and his teammates added four runs in the sixth and three more in the eighth to complete the rout.

AL 411 004 030 13 19 1
NL 000 001 032 6 12 1

July 13, 1993 Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore (AL) AL: 9 NL: 3
After spotting the National League a 2-0 lead in the first inning, the American League roared back. Led by Kirby Puckett's homer and double, the "Junior Circuit" scored three runs in both the fifth and sixth frames, while its pitchers held the National League in check.

NL 200 001 000 3 7 2
AL 011 033 10X 9 11 0

July 12, 1994 Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh (NL) NL: 8 AL: 7
The National League snapped a six-game losing streak, thanks to Moises Alou's double that scored Tony Gwynn in the bottom of the 10th inning. A home run by Atlanta's Fred McGriff in the ninth forced extra innings.

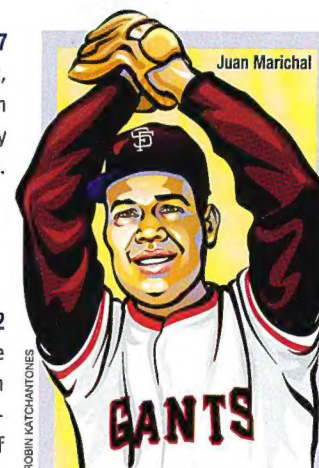
AL 100 003 300 0 7 15 1
NL 103 001 002 1 8 12 0

July 11, 1995 The Ballpark in Arlington, Texas (AL) NL: 3 AL: 2
Following three scoreless innings, the American League posted a 2-0 lead when Frank Thomas crushed a John Smiley pitch in the bottom of the fourth. Despite struggling offensively, the National League made the most of its three hits—all yard shots by Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Jeff Conine—for the one-run triumph.

NL 000 001 110 3 3 0
AL 000 200 000 2 8 0

July 9, 1996 Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia NL: 6 AL: 0
National League hurlers combined for the seventh shutout in All-Star Game history. Los Angeles catcher Mike Piazza blasted a home run in the second and drove in two runs to earn MVP honors. Neither team issued a walk for the first time in Midsummer Classic history.

AL 000 000 000 0 7 0
NL 121 002 00x 6 12 1



ROBIN KATCHANTONES

Most Games Lost: 2

Mort Cooper, NL, 1942-43;
Claude Passeau, NL, 1941,
1946; Whitey Ford, AL, 1959
(first game), 1960 (second
game); Luis Tiant, AL, 1968,
1974; Catfish Hunter, AL,
1967, 1975; Dwight Gooden,
NL, 1986, 1988.

**Most Innings Pitched,
Total Games: 19 1/3**

Don Drysdale, NL (eight
games).

Most Runs Allowed, Game: 7

Atlee Hammaker, NL, July
6, 1983.

Most Hits Allowed, Game: 9

Tom Glavine, NL, July 14,
1992.

**Most Home Runs Allowed,
Game: 3**

Jim Palmer, AL, July 19,
1977.

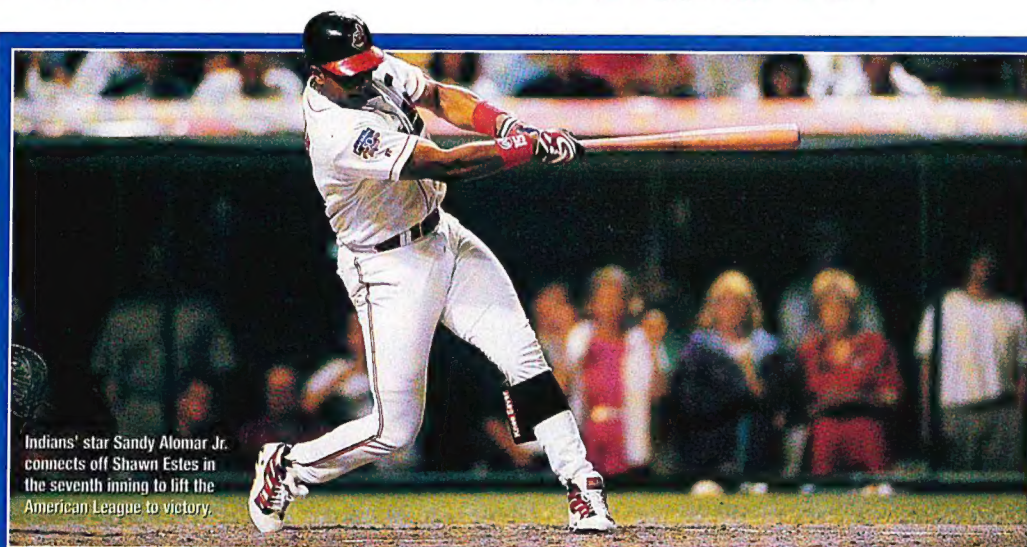
**Most Bases on Balls,
Game: 5**

Bill Hallahan, NL, July 6,
1933, two innings.

Most Strikeouts, Game: 6

Carl Hubbell, NL, July 10,
1934; Johnny Vander Meer,
NL, July 13, 1943; Larry
Jansen, NL, July 11, 1950;
Ferguson Jenkins, NL, July
11, 1967.

PILLING/MLB PHOTOS



Indians' star Sandy Alomar Jr. connects off Shawn Estes in the seventh inning to lift the American League to victory.

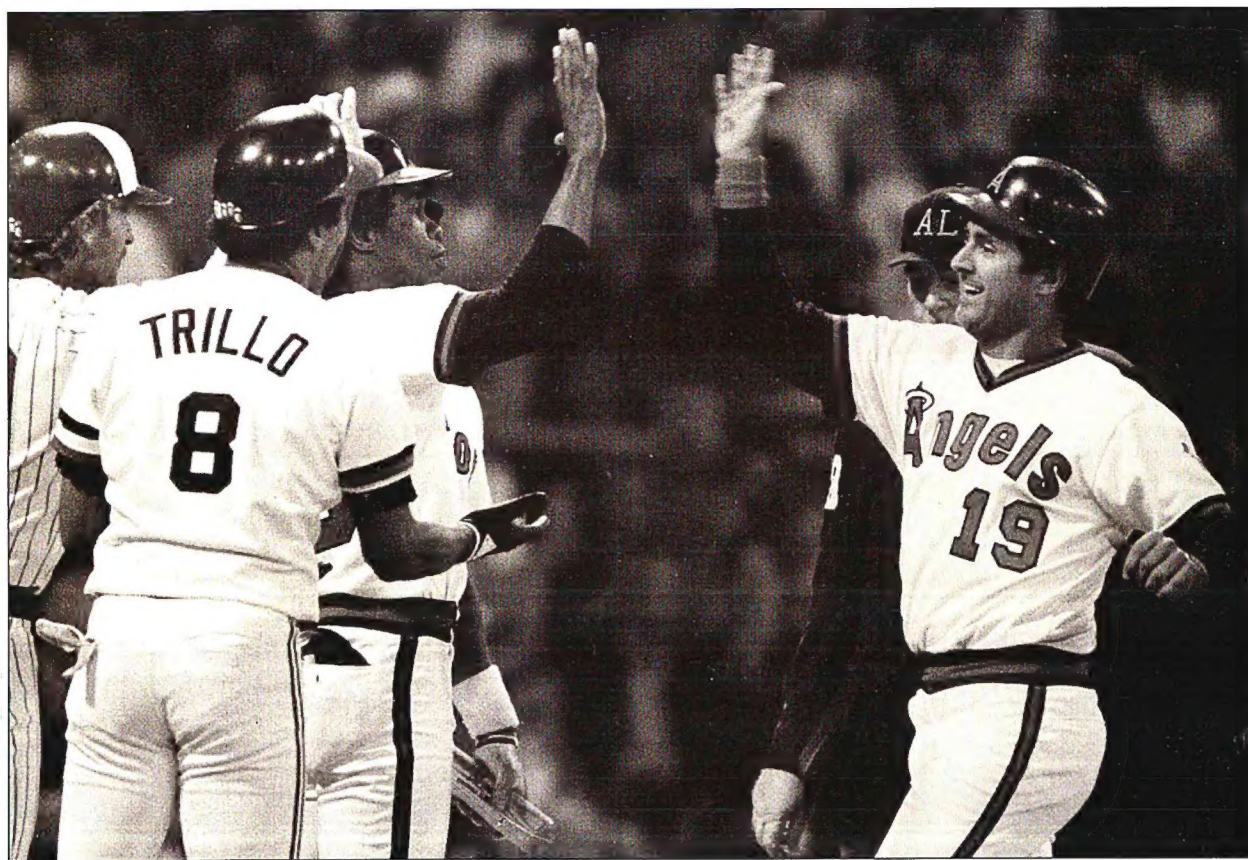
July 8, 1997 Jacobs Field, Cleveland (AL) AL: 3 NL: 1
Sandy Alomar Jr. made the most of his fifth All-Star Game appearance in nine seasons and only at-bat of the contest. The Cleveland slugger belted a game-deciding homer in the seventh inning in front of a thrilled home

crowd. American League pitchers did their part, too, limiting the National League lineup to three hits.

NL 000 000 100 1 3 0
AL 010 000 20X 3 7 0

All-Star Flashback

July 6, 1983



Fred Lynn's timing was perfect. On the 50th anniversary of the Midsummer Classic, played in Comiskey Park (the site of the first All-Star Game) the California Angels' outfielder accomplished what no other player in the contest's history could do—he belted a grand slam. Playing in his ninth, and what would be his final,



Top: Lynn is all smiles as he is congratulated at the plate by his AL teammates.

Above: The mighty swing that made All-Star Game history.

All-Star Game, Lynn's bases-loaded blast came in the third inning, and was his fourth in All-Star competition. Suitably inspired, the American League, losers of 11 straight All-Star Games, exploded for a record seven runs in that inning before coasting to a 13-3 victory, its first since 1971. Hollywood couldn't have written a more memorable script. ♦

UP/CORBIS RETTMANN (2)